



ACADEMIC CONSULTANCY REPORT

ENHANCING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INCLUSION AT DORPSHUIS DE COMMANDERIJ

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

This report is produced by a team of six students from Wageningen University & Research representing three different nationalities and diverse academic backgrounds, including International Development Studies, Health & Society, and Urban Environmental Management. The shared sociological background of the team provides a strong foundation for understanding the social significance of *De Commanderij* project.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

De Commanderij, a community centre in Bennekom, is going to open in October 2026 after being renovated. The board aims for the centre to become the “living room of Bennekom”: an open and welcoming place where residents can meet, spend time together, participate in activities, and build social connections. In this way, *De Commanderij* aims to increase social cohesion and contribute to the well-being of Bennekom residents.

In this project, we researched ways of making *De Commanderij* as inclusive and accessible as possible. We specifically targeted groups that were mentioned by the commissioner as points of attention, such as differently abled people, parents with young children, newcomers, people experiencing loneliness, and non-Dutch residents. To address the research question “*How can De Commanderij optimize its functioning and strategy to attract and engage different socio-demographic groups in Bennekom?*”, we used a mixed-methods approach. This included 56 street interviews in Bennekom, 219 filled-in surveys, a focus group with eight residents, and in-depth interviews with two local community initiatives.

Our findings show that younger residents, especially people aged 25-29, non-Dutch residents and parents with young children are currently less active in community initiatives. The most frequently mentioned barrier to participate in community initiatives was lack of time. Moreover, a major barrier is the expectation to find nothing of interest for themselves in community initiatives. Our developed recommendations aim to counter these barriers. Moreover, we identified potential barriers for visiting *De Commanderij* once it opens, which included issues like a lack of knowledge about *De Commanderij*. These barriers were the key information on which we based our developed recommendations on.

We developed three main themes concerning recommendations that were chosen based on both, the requested insights of the commissioner and the main insights gained through our data gathering. These themes are: activities and facilities, communication, and partnerships. An overview of these recommendations can be found in the next section.

OVERVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

Below an overview is provided of the recommendations given in this consultancy report. After each recommendation a page number can be found, which refers to the page where the recommendation is explained more elaborately and where we show the gathered data and literature supporting the recommendation.

Priority of implementation:

➡ = Highly recommended to implement as soon as possible

CONCERNING ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

De Commanderij should:

Concerning the organisational strategy

- Reevaluate the activities and facilities every six months by tracking which groups are not present at *De Commanderij*, and adapt activities and facilities for underrepresented groups. (p. 17)
- Be open as much as possible, allowing residents to visit at any time to enjoy an informal meeting space. (p. 18)
- Have a host (manager or volunteer) that is constantly present to create a welcoming atmosphere and who functions as a point of contact in case of discrimination or emergency (must be a *BHV'er* and has ideally completed a workshop on inclusiveness). (p. 18)
- ➡ • Take a bottom-up approach to the management and organisation of activities and facilities to ensure that they are approachable and sustainable. Achieve this by:
 - Involving residents in the organisation of activities.
 - Hosting a community meeting every six months to discuss residents' perspective on the space and together with the board develop the future of *De Commanderij* (p.19)

Concerning preferred activities and facilities in general

- ➡ • Organise the most requested activities by residents, namely activities related to creativity, sports and socializing. (p. 19)
- If possible, realise an actual café for people to sit down and have a drink. If this is not possible, create a spacious coffee corner with a coffee machine for individuals and filter coffee for bigger groups.
- Prioritise making it possible for residents to rent rooms due to the strong demand for this facility.

Residents of the age group under 18 need special attention as they are least inclined to visit De Commanderij, therefore

- In addition to the activities and facilities mentioned above, facilitate work/study spaces, and activities specifically for teenagers. (p. 22)

Concerning bringing together different target groups

- Organise activities that focus on bringing together different socio-demographic groups, through activities related to:
 - Culture and language exchange.
 - Having meals together.
 - (Board) Games afternoons/evenings.
 - Activities to exchange knowledge and skills. (p. 23)

CONCERNING COMMUNICATION:

***De Commanderij* should:**

- Implement a transparent and continuous communication strategy that weekly informs residents of Bennekom about the renovation, the opening and thereafter the activities and facilities of *De Commanderij*, to increase awareness and participation within the community. (p. 23)

This communication strategy includes:

- Developing a multilingual approach in which Dutch remains the main language, but where information is also available in English and possibly other languages based on demand. (p. 24)
- ➡ ○ Combining online and offline communication channels, including the website, newsletters, Facebook, Instagram, flyers/posters, and an information board at the building and a festive open day to adhere to the needs of different target groups. (p. 25)
- Collaborating with the Asylum Seekers' Centre in Wageningen-Hoog, care institutions (*De Schoolstraat* and *Opella*) and schools, as intermediary organisations, to spread information about activities and facilities through their networks. (p. 27)

CONCERNING PARTNERSHIPS:

***De Commanderij* should:**

- Work together with places like *De Smeedplaats*, *De Brink* or local churches to ensure that there is enough space for planned activities. (p. 28)
- Work together with *BelloBus* to bring and return people to *De Commanderij* for whom it is less accessible. (p. 28)
- Work together with *Vraagt U Maar* to have consultation hours where people can ask questions related to well-being, care and housing, in order to lower the barrier to seek help. (p. 28-29)
- Keep in contact with the local police to inform and warn local citizens, but also to give the police a sense of what is happening in Bennekom. (p. 29)

See appendix 1 for the Dutch version of the recommendations.

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1. INTRODUCTION

De Commanderij in Bennekom will open in October 2026 as a community centre after its renovation. This consultancy project aims to find out how to reach and include all groups in Bennekom in this community centre, to fulfil the ambition of *De Commanderij* to be as inclusive and accessible as possible.

Community initiatives bring people together to carry out interventions aimed at strengthening the community (Baum, 2007). These initiatives include things like sport clubs, churches or community centres. While certain groups in Bennekom are already active in multiple community initiatives, other groups currently remain underrepresented in community life. *De Commanderij* aims to engage these groups as well and wants to ensure that its activities and facilities reflect the needs and interests of everyone in the community.

Therefore, the commissioner of this report, the board of *De Commanderij*, has asked us to look at the wider community and additionally into several target groups that may face barriers to participation in their new community centre. These include differently abled people, parents with young children, newcomers, people experiencing loneliness and non-Dutch residents. We sought to discover how to reach the community at large and the specific target groups, through uncovering what residents would value in *De Commanderij*. Gathering insights and giving recommendations to *De Commanderij* about this can be the starting point for making the future community centre more inclusive and for strengthening social cohesion within Bennekom.

In the Netherlands, but also globally, individualisation is increasing. This trend leads to the decreasing of social ties, which in turn can lead to more loneliness and less social cohesion (Ham, 2000). Research has shown that individualisation is associated with psychological distress and mental health problems, partly due to the weakening of social ties and support systems (Nezlek & Humphrey, 2023). Despite being in the top 10 happiest countries in the world (Helliwell et al., 2025), 40% of the Dutch population suffers from symptoms of anxiety and/or depression and 25% has a mental disorder (Van Bon-Martens et al., 2025). The long-term goal of *De Commanderij* is to promote and foster the well-being of the residents of Bennekom and thereby counter this mental health crisis and increased individualisation. To realise this, *De Commanderij* wants to be an inclusive space for everyone by offering the community a place to come together, connect, participate in activities and thereby (re-)build social ties. This aligns with research showing that such spaces can bring communities together, provide meeting places, and foster social ties (Giddings et al., 2011).

However, *De Commanderij* anticipates facing challenges in becoming fully inclusive and reaching all groups within society. At the moment, *De Commanderij* struggles with how to know the needs of the residents of Bennekom and how to communicate to them about the existence of *De Commanderij* and its activities and facilities.

Therefore, this project aims to gain insight into which social, cultural, practical, or communicative barriers could keep people from engaging in *De Commanderij*, and how these barriers can be addressed. To overcome these barriers, we aim to find out what kind of activities and facilities the residents of Bennekom desire within *De Commanderij*. Another point we dove into is how *De Commanderij* can most effectively communicate, reach, and involve the people of Bennekom to

participate, and via which channels people can be reached with information and updates about *De Commanderij*. Moreover, we came up with multiple possible partnerships, through which *De Commanderij* can increase its impact in the community. Through addressing these topics, we aim to provide the board of *De Commanderij* with recommendations on how to become an inclusive and accessible community centre.

To address our project aim, we established the following main research question:

“How can *De Commanderij* optimize its functioning and strategy to attract and engage different socio-demographic groups in Bennekom?”

This main research question was answered through the following sub-questions:

- 1) “Which socio-demographic groups are currently underrepresented or unengaged in community initiatives in Bennekom?”
- 2) “What barriers prevent these groups from attending and engaging in community initiatives in Bennekom?”
- 3) “What would stimulate attendance and engagement in *De Commanderij*?”

This consultancy report is structured in the following way: In Chapter 2, we discuss the methodology and how we designed our research. In Chapter 3, our general results and recommendations are addressed, in which section 3.1 shows our general findings, and sections 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 provide the concrete recommendations. Finally, Chapter 4 will consist of a conclusion.

2. METHODS

In our research, we used a mixed-methods approach combining quantitative and qualitative methods to gain insights from both Bennekom residents and experts on community centres. Our methods are: street interviews, an online survey, a focus group, and in-depth interviews. Below, we will describe how these methods were used. In using a mixed-methods approach, we were able to obtain insights from both residents themselves and experts on third spaces. This allowed for more extensive insights into both barriers for participating in and wishes for *De Commanderij*.

2.1 Data Collection

We conducted semi-structured street interviews with 56 participants by approaching people directly at different locations in and around Bennekom. To reach a diverse range of residents, we selected locations that were expected to reach different target groups. These included residential areas, the city centre and market, where a broad cross-section of residents could be found. We also visited a coffee morning of the Bennekom churches and the local sports clubs, to reach people who are already active in community life. In addition, we visited two schools to reach parents with young children, an assisted living facility to reach differently abled people and an elderly care home to include older residents. We also went to the fair held during our research period to gain more perspectives from young people and to the Asylum Seekers Centre (AZC) in Wageningen Hoog. Although the AZC is not located in Bennekom, it is situated nearby, and some of its residents regularly visit Bennekom, for example to do their grocery shopping. We therefore considered them part of the wider group of people who may visit and make use of *De Commanderij*. These street interviews helped us understand how people in Bennekom perceive *De Commanderij*, for example, regarding what kind of activities and facilities they would like to see, how accessible and inclusive it is, and what they think the value of *De Commanderij* could be in Bennekom.

For the in-depth interviews, we interviewed two community initiatives: *Cultura* and *Malkander*. *Cultura* is a centre for arts and culture that offers facilities and activities such as a library, theatre, courses, workshops, and cultural events. *Malkander* is a community initiative that supports residents through social work, youth work, and community activities. These in-depth interviews were necessary to gain insights into how to create an inclusive community initiative and how to engage people in its activities.

We also did an online survey to reach as many people in Bennekom as possible and to collect similar information as in the street interviews, such as people's preferences for activities and facilities at *De Commanderij* and their willingness to visit or participate when it opens. In addition, the survey helped us identify possible patterns between variables such as age, loneliness, sense of belonging, and current participation in community initiatives, and people's willingness to actively participate in *De Commanderij* when it opens. First, we tried to reach our potential respondents through social media and the networks of our commissioner, coach, and academic advisor, which yielded 32 completed survey responses. Because we aimed for more respondents in our survey, we expanded our strategy and decided to distribute flyers door-to-door in the neighbourhood around *De Commanderij*, in areas where more elderly people live, such as Timanshof, the Opella apartments, and Aleidahof, and in more remote areas such as De Kraats. We had also planned to conduct street interviews in De Kraats, but we could not find people on

the street there during our data collection period. Therefore, we paid extra attention to this area when distributing the survey flyers, so that residents from De Kraats still had the opportunity to participate in our research. We successfully distributed over 750 flyers, and the number of completed survey responses increased during the remaining data collection period. In the end, after the survey had been online for 11 days, we closed it with a total of 219 respondents.

In addition to the street interviews and survey, we conducted a focus group with eight residents of the Bennekom community to better understand why people may or may not come to *De Commanderij* and what could make them feel welcome and included. We started with an introduction, followed by a silent brainstorming using post-its notes, so everyone would have the space and time to write down their own thoughts, without being influenced by other people's opinions. Then we continued with a group conversation about what would, and would *not*, make people feel at home at *De Commanderij*, how *De Commanderij* could contribute to people's well-being, and which activities and facilities would bring different groups together.

2.2 Data Analysis

The gathered data were analysed in different ways. The in-depth interviews were analysed by transcribing the interviews and using ATLAS.ti to code. The codes were initially based on literature, and additional codes were created based on the content of the interviews. For the focus group, we made an extensive summary of what was discussed and based on this extracted the main insights. The data from the street interviews and survey were combined in Excel, and thereafter, the data were transported into R for statistical analysis. The quantitative data were analysed using chi-square tests, Pearson correlation tests and cross-tables.

2.3 Sample Breakdown and Limitations

In total, the sample of street interviews and the survey consist of 265 respondents (56 through street interviews, 219 through the survey). This was supplemented by eight focus group participants. Throughout the sample breakdown the focus group participants are not included in the statistical analyses but are being mentioned separately. In our recommendations however, the perspectives of all our different methods were aligned.

Figure 1 shows the age distribution. We reached respondents from every age group, and our sample reflects the population of Bennekom quite well. The concern that we will not reach elderly people, specifically the group of 80 plus, because they are less represented on the streets where we did the interviews and they might be less likely to fill out a survey, was not met. While 8.0 % of Bennekom residents are older than 80, in our sample this group was similarly represented with 5.3 % (Ede in Cijfers, 2026). There was no concrete concern that the age groups between 30 to 80 would not

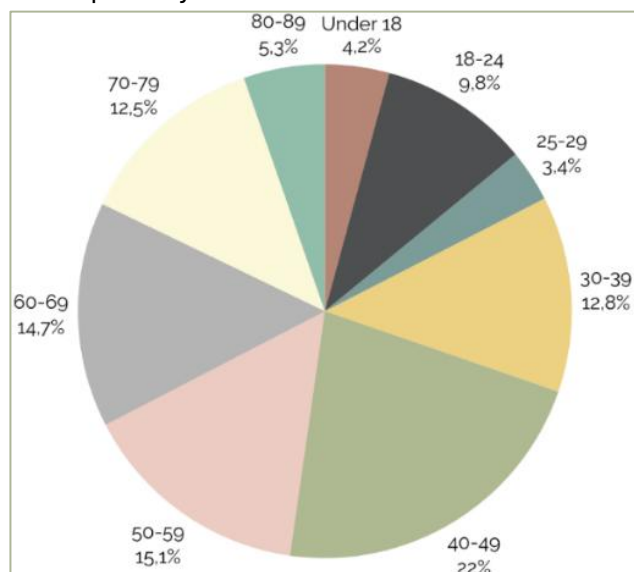


Figure 1: Breakdown of age in respondents

be reached and they indeed are quite accurately represented in our sample. Only the age group 40-49 is significantly overrepresented in our sample since they make up 22% while in Bennekom they only represent 10.9% of the population (Ede in Cijfers, 2026). A possible explanation for the high representation of this group in our sample could be that we distributed many survey flyers through schools and sports clubs, where many parents in that age category may be present. The smallest age group of our sample is the group of 25-29 with only 3.4 %, however that also reflects the percentage of that group in Bennekom which is 4.2 % (Ede in Cijfers, 2026). The group of people under 25 is the one that differs the most from our sample. While in Bennekom this group is making up 25.2 % of the residents, in our sample they are only represented with 14 % (Ede in Cijfers, 2026). In the focus group the age distribution was also less representative of the Bennekom residents than in the other age groups of the street interviews and the survey. We tried to invite a diverse group to the discussion, however eventually we could not influence which people are willing to join. Six out of eight participants were older than 60, which means that also in this method our data overrepresents the perspectives of older people. This means that while processing our data and developing the recommendation we took into account that especially the youth is not equally represented as the other age groups.

Figure 2 shows the gender distribution, in which 70.9% of the respondents were female and 29.1% male. This does not correspond to the population of Bennekom, where women constitute only a slight majority (51%) (Ede in Cijfers, 2026). It is not entirely clear to us where this overrepresentation of women comes from. In the second phase of the street interviews, we attempted to address this imbalance by focusing more on men. Of the 56 participants interviewed, 55.4% identified as female (n = 31) and 44.6% as male (n = 25). At the focus group, there was also an overrepresentation of women, with six women and only two men participating in our focus group. We had less influence on the gender distribution in the survey, which is why women ultimately remained in the majority. The overrepresentation of women means that the perspectives of women may be represented more strongly in our findings than the perspectives of men.

Figure 3 shows the nationality of our respondents and demonstrates that the largest proportion of our sample is Dutch (93.2%) and a minority has a non-Dutch background (6.8%). This is not completely representative of the actual population of Bennekom as 86.5% of the population of Bennekom has a Dutch background, while 13.5% has a non-Dutch background. Therefore, people with a non-Dutch background were slightly underrepresented in our sample. However, we are

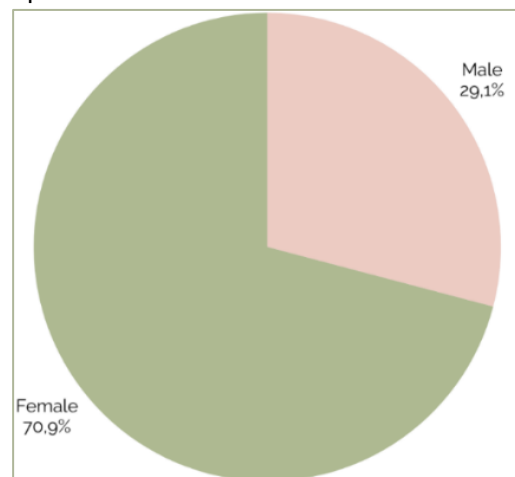


Figure 2: Breakdown of gender in respondents

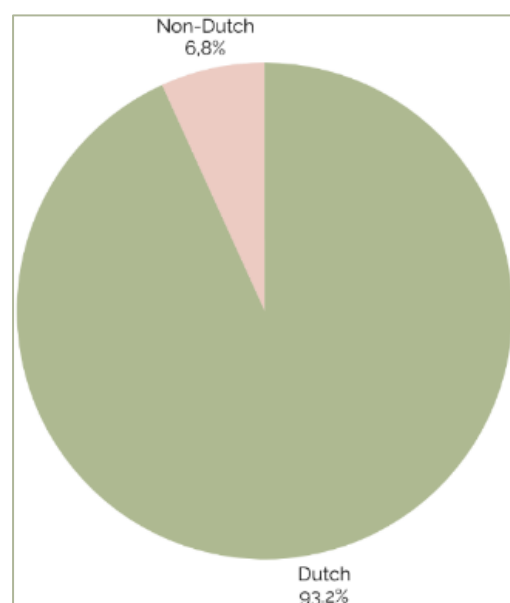


Figure 3: Breakdown of nationality of respondents

pleased that we were also able to find non-Dutch respondents and include their input.

A general limitation regarding how representative our sample is, is that we cannot always assume if someone for example has a non-Dutch nationality or if someone is differently abled. Because it is a sensitive question to ask, we were careful about this. Not all disabilities are visible or physical, so we cannot say for sure that someone is not differently abled as this is a personal experience.

Another limitation was that we were unable to include the perspective of *De Dorpsraad Bennekom*. We contacted *De Dorpsraad* to request an interview, but we did not receive any response during the data collection period. As a result, our findings do not include their broader perspective on the needs of the Bennekom community and the possible role of *De Commandერი*.

There are also several limitations related to our data collection method. In the focus group, confidentiality could not be fully guaranteed because we could not control what participants shared outside the focus group session. The online survey method also brings limitations. The survey may have excluded people with low digital literacy or difficulties using online devices. However, we aimed to counter the negative effect of low digital literacy by combining the survey within person street interviews and by adding a team member's e-mail address to the flyer advertising the survey in case people needed help.

When drawing conclusions and making our recommendations, we took these limitations into account. We were careful with generalising our findings to all residents of Bennekom, because some groups were overrepresented while other groups were underrepresented. Therefore, our conclusions and recommendations are based on the experience and opinions of our participants and may not fully represent all residents of Bennekom.

2.4 Ethical Considerations

As part of our ethical considerations, we asked all participants for their consent before conducting the street interviews, focus group, surveys, and in-depth interviews. We made sure participants knew their participation was voluntary and that they could refuse to answer any questions or withdraw at any time during data collection. We also explained the purpose of the research and how the data will be used. Moreover, we mentioned that the data will be stored in a secure manner and will not be retained for longer than necessary. Specifically, we obtained separate consent forms for audio recording for in-depth interviews and the focus group. After the report has been shared with the commissioner, all stored data will be deleted, and the consent forms will be saved in a secure online space for six months.

For the analysis data using ATLAS.ti, we made sure that names and other identifying details were removed before importing the transcript from the in-depth interview and focus group. We replaced street interview participant identities with codes to keep participants anonymous. For the analysis of online survey data using R, we stored contact information separately from survey responses. As with street interview data, we also used codes for respondents rather than personal identifiers.

3. RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Before presenting the recommendations, we first discuss several findings from both our literature research and our qualitative and quantitative analysis. This provides insight in the prevalence of loneliness and the need for connection in Bennekom and explores what the added value of *De Commanderij* in Bennekom could be. In this section, we will also answer the research sub-questions. Following that, recommendations will be provided based on three themes, namely: activities and facilities, communication and partnerships.

3.1 GENERAL FINDINGS

3.1.1 Prevalence of Loneliness and Need for Social Cohesion

An interesting result of our quantitative analysis concerns social connectivity. We asked residents of Bennekom to what extent they feel connected to the village and its residents. 12.7% reported not feeling connected to Bennekom and its residents, while 16.3% reported feeling neutral and 70.9% reported feeling connected to Bennekom. These findings on perceived social connectedness are closely related to reported levels of loneliness, as we also found that people who experience loneliness are more inclined to wish for more connections to Bennekom and its residents. Therefore, these findings contribute to our understanding about the community's social well-being.



“You see that behind the front door there is a lot of loneliness.”

*~ Employee of Malkander
(translated)*

While the Netherlands is often cited as one of the world's happiest countries (Helliwell et al., 2025), our findings indicate a degree of mental health strain on the residents of Bennekom, highlighting a potential role for *De Commanderij* as a space for social connection and community-building. Specifically, 20.2% of respondents indicated feeling somewhat or completely lonely, and 17.3% indicated feeling neutral regarding loneliness. In our interview with *Malkander* it was also confirmed that they regularly encounter loneliness in Bennekom. Within the sample, reported feelings of loneliness differed between age groups: the 80-89 group mostly indicated feeling lonely, followed by the age groups 70-79, 40-49, and 18-24. These findings reflect earlier research by Ham (2000) and Allik and Realo (2004), which claims that in an increasingly individualised world, social ties between community members are decreasing which results in more loneliness and a lack of social cohesion.

The data also seems to corroborate literature on social exclusion by Zaidi & Pitt (2022), showing that residents who are newcomers to Bennekom (meaning that they have been living there for 0-2 years) report significantly lower levels of connection to Bennekom and the community than residents who have been living in the village for a longer time. Moreover, the findings indicate that there is a statistically significant relationship between how lonely residents feel and their wish for stronger social relationships¹. As shown in the footnotes, the p-value of this correlation is 0.00.

¹ [t(206) = 3.59, p = 0.00]

This value explains the possibility that the relationship would have been found if it relied only on chance. If this value is smaller than 0.05, the relationship is significant. The t-value of 3.59 indicates that the real difference we found in wishing for stronger social relationships between people who experience loneliness and people who do not, is over three and a half times larger than any random variation. These findings suggest that despite the ‘individual responsibility’ narrative of modern neoliberalism, there remains a human need for the networks, trust, and reciprocity that define social capital (Bauman, 2004; Yu, 2025).

3.1.2 Value of *De Commanderij*

The data shows that people who are currently active in community initiatives feel more connected to Bennekom². Because of this, *De Commanderij* has the opportunity to become the third space that could help counter loneliness and individualization. Third spaces are “public gathering places that ultimately contribute to the strength of community” (Yuen & Johnson, 2025, p. 295). As *De Commanderij* aims to function as a community “living room”, it can provide an accessible and welcoming environment where residents can meet, interact, and build social ties.

Participation could help counter the trend of individualism, as described by Ham (2000) and Allik and Realo (2004). Moreover, *De Commanderij* could help bridge the gap between people who feel lonely and their wish to have stronger relations in the community. Participants who report wishing for stronger relationships, are significantly more inclined to visit *De Commanderij*³. This finding suggests that *De Commanderij* is perceived as a potential solution for social isolation.

However, our findings also show some challenges for inclusion. While *De Commanderij* aims to be a meeting place for all residents, it is shown that age is a predictor of participation. There is thus a significant relationship between age and whether people consider visiting *De Commanderij*⁴, see table 1. The table shows that under 18 only 45.5% said that they would consider visiting *De Commanderij* (with 27.3% saying they will not visit), and in the age group 18-24 this percentage is even lower at 32.0%. The 70+ age group is the most interested in participating or visiting the community centre.

	Will not visit	Will maybe visit	Will visit
Under 18	27.3%	27.2%	45.5%
18-24	12%	56%	32%
25-29	0%	25%	75%
30-39	11.8%	29.4%	58.8%
40-49	1.7%	39.7%	58.6%
50-59	7.7%	41%	51.3%
60-69	7.7%	35.9%	56.4%
70-79	0%	21.2%	78.8%
80-89	0%	21.4%	78.6%

Table 1: Intention to visit *De Commanderij* related to age

² [$\chi^2(2) = 27.62, p = 0.00$]

³ [$\chi^2(4) = 24.6, p = 0.00$]

⁴ [$\chi^2(16) = 30.17, p = 0.01$]

While parents with young children show a slightly more positive attitude to visiting than people without young children, this relationship was not significant. It does, however, show that having young children is not a barrier to participation. In the surveys and the street interviews, many parents with young children indicated that they would like *De Commanderij* to organise activities aimed at young children. This could explain why this group has an inclination to visit *De Commanderij* when it opens. Because this group is already interested in visiting, focusing on other groups is more important if the aim is to increase social inclusion. We will elaborate on these groups in the recommendations.

3.1.3 Answering the Sub-questions

Having discussed the main findings regarding loneliness, social connectedness, and the potential role of *De Commanderij*, we can now relate these insights to our research questions. The findings provide a basis for answering the sub-questions, which focus on identifying the groups that are currently less engaged in community initiatives, understanding the barriers that may prevent their participation, and noticing factors that would stimulate attendance and engagement in *De Commanderij*.

Sub-question 1: Which socio-demographic groups are currently underrepresented or unengaged in community initiatives in Bennekom?

Our findings show that 31.7% of the residents is currently not active in any community initiatives. Respondents who indicated that they *are* active, are mainly involved in sport clubs, like DVO and dance, churches or social initiatives, like the *Bellobus* and a women's circle. About 24% of active residents belong to the age group 40-49 and only about 1% belong to the age group 25-29. For the age groups under 18 and 18-24, this percentage is respectively 4.2% and 9.8%. Moreover, 95.5% of active people have a Dutch nationality, whereas only 4.5% has a non-Dutch nationality. However, it is also important to take the representativeness of our sample in account, as described in section 2.3, and the way this might skew these results. Moreover, as 75% of the age group 25-29 considers visiting *De Commanderij*, 25% considers maybe visiting, and 0% said they will *not* consider visiting (see table 1), additional attention to this age group is not necessary. However, for non-Dutch residents and the age groups under 18 and 18-24 additional attention might be needed to attract and engage them at the community centre as well.

Another interesting find is that of the active residents, 75% report not having young kids (aged 13 and below), where 25% do have young kids. This indicates that parents of young children are currently less engaged in community initiatives, however they are generally very interested in participating in *De Commanderij*.

Sub-question 2: What barriers prevent these groups from attending and engaging in community initiatives in Bennekom?

In the analysis of barriers to social participation in community initiatives in general in Bennekom, time constraints appeared to be the most frequently mentioned obstacle. This suggests that many residents experience competing demands on their time, which may limit their ability to engage in community activities. This finding is consistent with Bauman's (2004) description of the time-poor contemporary society, in which individuals often face increasing time pressures and competing responsibilities. Moreover, respondents also frequently mention a 'lack of interest' as a barrier

preventing engagement with community initiatives. How to address these barriers, as well as potential barriers specifically related to *De Commanderij*, will be elaborated on in the section 3.2.

Sub-question 3: What would stimulate attendance and engagement in *De Commanderij*?

Throughout the data, we identified three main themes that would stimulate attendance and engagement in *De Commanderij*. We found that in order to stimulate attendance and engagement it is important to adapt the organisation and management of activities and facilities to the wishes of residents, to create transparent and continuous communication, and to initiate partnerships with certain organisations. These three themes, activities and facilities, communication and partnerships, will be elaborated on in the next section, thus simultaneously answering the third sub-question. Connected to these themes, concrete recommendations will be provided.

3.2 RECOMMENDATIONS – ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

This section of recommendations will begin with a general part in which we elaborate on the organisational strategy that *De Commanderij* should adapt regarding their activities and facilities, after which recommendations will be provided related to specific activities and facilities for different target groups and purposes.

3.2.1 Organisational Strategy

The first recommendation concerns the relation between activities and the inclusiveness of *De Commanderij*. The activity programming is one of the methods to ensure that *De Commanderij* attracts and engages a wide range of people from Bennekom. Based on an interview with an employee of *Cultura*, **we recommend that *De Commanderij* reevaluates their activities and facilities every six months by tracking which groups are not present at *De Commanderij*, and adapt their activities and facilities for underrepresented groups.** This ensures that activities and facilities align with the interests and preferences of underrepresented groups, thus having a higher chance of these groups engaging with *De Commanderij*. They can do the evaluation process by, for one week, writing down to which groups the people that enter during opening hours or take part in activities, belong. *Cultura* uses a similar evaluation process and has good experiences with it. To gain ideas for new activities for certain underrepresented groups their employees reach out to a key person (or ask personnel/volunteers within the facility) who is part of that target group and consult with them which activities and facilities could be of interest for that specific target group. *De Commanderij* could use a similar strategy and moreover can look into appendix 2 to see an extensive list of preferred activities divided by socio-demographic groups that we identified during our research. The activity and facility offer has to fulfil the social needs of all groups in society, otherwise, the perceived lack of relevant opportunities will create a barrier for certain groups in society to participate in the third space, as shown in existing research (Noël et al., 2021). This is also reflected in the results of our quantitative analysis. The analysis shows that 26.3% of the respondents identified “nothing of interest” at a third space as a barrier to visit and engage in that third space. This underlines the importance for *De Commanderij* to adapt their activity programming to the wishes of the residents of Bennekom to overcome this barrier.

Moreover, *De Commanderij* should function as a public third space that creates an open and accessible environment where everyone feels welcome to participate. Research shows that third

spaces can counter declining social networks, loneliness, and social isolation, thereby contributing to improved mental health and wellbeing (Yuen & Johnson, 2016; Yu, 2025, Nezelek & Humphrey, 2023). This aim was also mentioned by an employee of *Cultura*, who explained: “*Sometimes it is just our goal to get them out of a certain loneliness, or isolation.*”, referring to people living in Ede. They achieve that goal by providing a space where everyone can walk in freely, meet others, and spend time together in a welcoming atmosphere.

To ensure accessibility and inclusiveness, *De Commanderij* should be open as much as possible, allowing residents to visit at any time to enjoy an informal meeting space.

This also aligns with research conducted by Medved (2016), claiming that “NCCs (Neighborhood Community Centers) should be open and accessible for as much of the time as possible (night and day, weekdays and weekends).” (p. 3). Since the staff capacity of *De Commanderij* is limited, it is not realistic to have activities scheduled to fill the extensive opening hours of the facility. However, our research showed that this is not necessary. The survey, street interview and focus group participants mentioned a preference for a limited number of structured activities combined with the wish for having sufficient space to meet informally in order to connect with fellow residents, without commitment to regular activities. This also addresses one of the main barriers identified by the surveyed people to commit to community initiatives: a lack of time. By enabling flexible participation without long-term commitment, this barrier can be overcome. Moreover, focus group participants noted that a lack of space to gather with their own group after activities could be a possible barrier preventing people from visiting. Therefore, it is important to offer enough seating and gathering spaces for people to meet, sit down and connect, also in the case of bigger groups. This correlates with the broader development of libraries in the Netherlands, in which libraries are not only a place to borrow books, but also a place where people can meet each other and everybody is equal (Ter Berg et al., 2023). *De Commanderij* will also house a library, and we anticipate this will thus stimulate engagement and connection between residents, as in the street interview residents explicitly mentioned their enthusiasm for the library.

“Sometimes it is just our goal to get them out of a certain loneliness, or isolation”

~ Employee of Cultura

To create an open space with a welcoming atmosphere, a crucial element that was mentioned by participants of the focus group, is having a host or volunteers who are constantly present during opening hours. This person should welcome visitors, act as a point of contact, while also maintaining an overview of what happens in the space. Moreover, the host can provide support in cases of discrimination or other unwanted behaviour, thereby reducing a potential barrier to visit *De Commanderij*. Focus group participants mentioned that the fear of being discriminated could prevent people from visiting, so by having a host as a contact person that is present, this barrier can be overcome. Since *De Commanderij* has limited staff, now only one manager, the function of this host could be taken on not only by this manager, but also by volunteers. It would be good for the manager and the volunteers to join a workshop about inclusiveness once, when they start their role as a host, to ensure they are aware of and sensitive to different perspectives. This is how for example *Cultura* ensures to create an inclusive atmosphere, by providing this kind of workshop to their staff. The hosts of *De Commanderij* can for example join the workshop at Wageningen University called: *Inclusief communiceren in drie stappen: van bewustzijn naar vaardigheden*. Next to the training on inclusiveness, the hosts ideally should have a training on emergency response (BHV) to ensure visitors safety, which was pointed out by an employee of the assisted living facility *Schoolstraat*. Therefore, taken together **we recommend that *De Commanderij* has a host (manager or volunteer) that is constantly present to create a welcoming atmosphere**

and who functions as a point of contact in case of discrimination or emergency (must be a BHV'er and has ideally completed a workshop on inclusiveness).

Alongside being an accessible public space, **we recommend De Commanderij to take a bottom-up approach to the management and organisation of activities and facilities to ensure that they are approachable and sustainable.** An employee from *Malkander* stated that the most sustainable initiatives are those in which people are organizing themselves. When decision-making processes and activity schedules are organized too top-down, fully executed by those 'in charge', residents are less likely to take ownership and responsibility for it and will feel more distant. Instead, involving residents in organising activities and shaping the future of *De Commanderij* increases accessibility, the initiative becomes more sustainable, fostering long-term engagement and the threshold for others to join becomes lower. This sustainability of a bottom-up organizational practice was also found in research where it is supplemented by insights that show how self-organized participation significantly strengthens community resilience by fostering a sense of belonging and individual agency (Kirby et al., 2024).

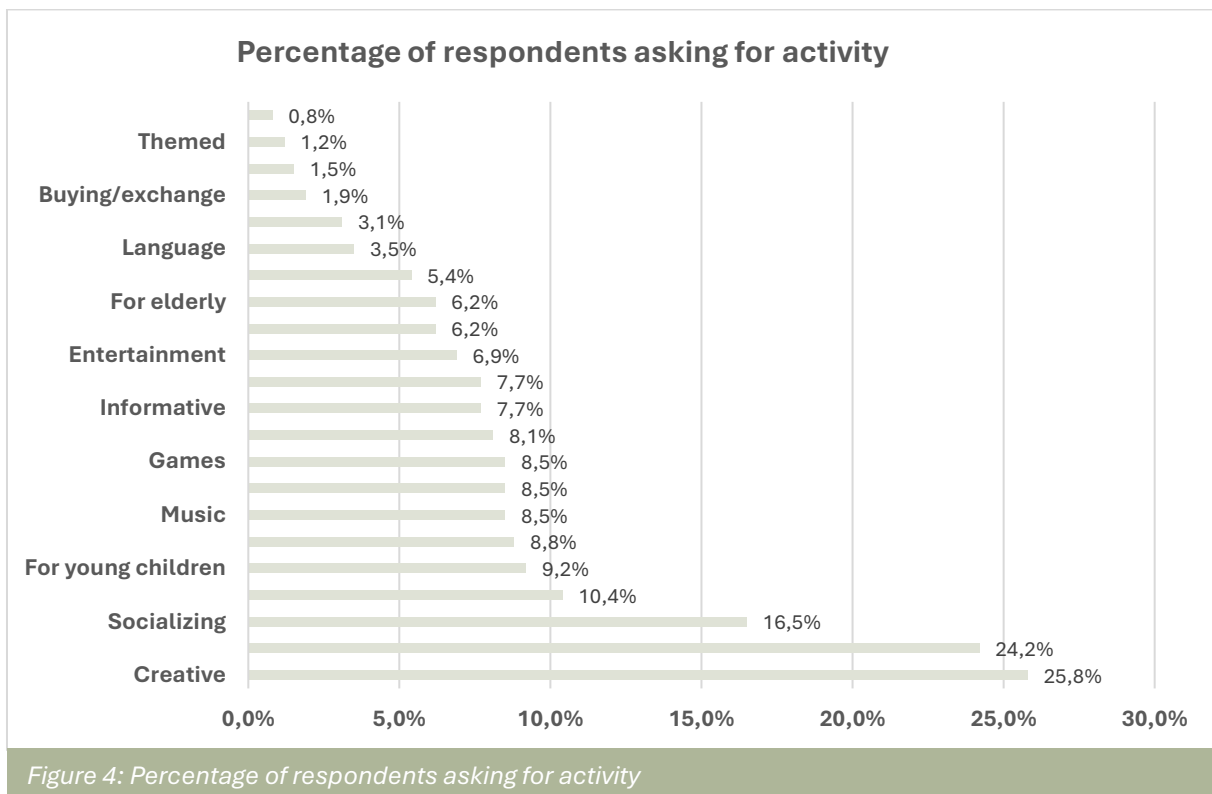
This perspective is shared by focus group participants who indicated that **De Commanderij should involve residents in the organisation of activities** by leaving room in the agenda for them to come up with their own ideas. It is also supported by the results from the survey, as 24.2% of the 70-79 age group and 100% of the over 89 age groups said that they would like to start and/or be part of a club. To facilitate a bottom-up strategy to increase resident participation, *De Commanderij* could provide a notice board ('prikbord') with interest lists for different clubs where people can leave their contact details. The employee from *Malkander* recommended to help with the first step of initiating and organising a (club) activity, for example by making a WhatsApp group or facilitating the room and necessities for the first time. However, it is important to let the residents themselves take control over the initiative over time. In addition, **we recommend hosting a community meeting every six months to discuss residents' perspective on the space and together with the board develop the future of De Commanderij.** The meeting should be open for everyone to join, during which the board of *De Commanderij* could share its future plans, while residents could provide feedback on their experiences with the space and suggest improvements. Thereby, residents become active partners in the development of *De Commanderij* rather than merely users of the space. However, *De Commanderij* should be aware that this community meeting will likely attract people who are already very engaged, thus the input from residents might be biased, therefore the board should take the input into perspective by keeping needs of different groups in mind. Moreover, they can try to actively engage underrepresented groups by inviting them to the community meeting for example via flyers in the city centre or paid advertisement on Instagram.

3.2.2 Preferred Activities and Facilities in General

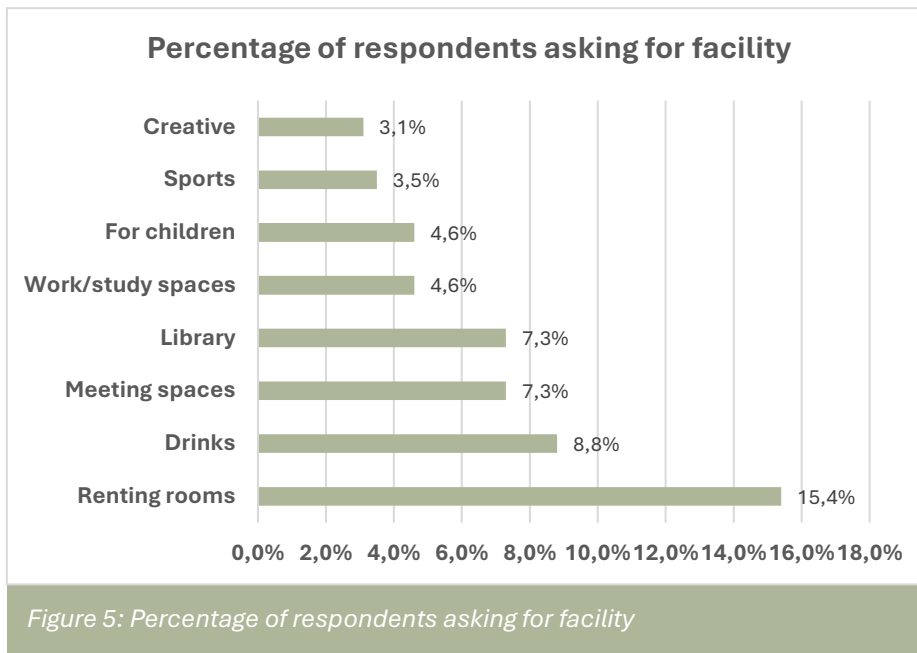
Based on the quantitative analysis of the street interviews and survey it is possible to provide an overview of the preferred activities and facilities by the residents of Bennekom in *De Commanderij* after its reopening. See figure 4 for an overview of the preferred activities, which shows activity categories in relation to the percentage of respondents that mentioned these categories. The graph shows a clear preference for creative activities, as 25.8% of the respondents mentioned this category. Within this category the most asked for activity is creative workshops (e.g. flower arranging, pottery and video- and photography) and arts and crafts (e.g. clay modelling and painting). The second most asked for activity category is 'sports', with 24.2% of the respondents mentioning this category. In this category yoga was by far the most frequently mentioned activity, and as *De Commanderij* plans to host yoga, the prediction is that this will attract a range of people

from different socio-demographic backgrounds. Moreover, the sports category also includes activities such as playing billiards/pool and table tennis. The third most popular category is ‘socializing’ with 16.5%, in which people requested activities such as moments of getting together and meeting new people and talking groups. This category is related to the category ‘café’ (10.4%), as having a drink together is also a way for people to meet each other. Consequently, **we recommend De Commanderij to organise mostly activities related to creativity, sports and socializing.**

The last-mentioned category ‘café’ also relates to one of the main findings of the focus group, namely the importance of a good coffee corner. Historically coffee houses have provided places for conversation and social interaction, as well as a place for political debate (Pendergrast, 1999). A coffee shop or coffee corners also served as a place where people could gather, speak freely, and mingle with others from their communities (Oldenburg, 1999). This is also seen back still today where particularly those with limited social ties see coffee shops or coffee corners as an important factor in their social life (Waxman, 2006). We see this importance of coffee corners back in our street interviews, surveys and the focus group, where the participants highlighted the value of coming together and engaging in conversation with others and drinking coffee before/after an activity, but also in general for the social interaction and community feeling. The participants stressed that they would strongly prefer an actual café where someone made the coffee for you, however people also understood that this might not be possible. Therefore, **we recommend De Commanderij, if possible, to realise an actual café for people to sit down and have a drink. If this is not possible, we recommend to create a spacious coffee corner with a coffee machine for individuals and filter coffee for bigger groups.** We recommend coffee pots of filter coffee for bigger groups, as otherwise after a group activity it would take too long for everybody to get their drink and many residents mentioned the value of drinking coffee with their own group after an activity. Additionally, the filter coffee would enable charging coffee at an affordable price. The coffee corner should also include the possibility to buy other drinks such as sodas.



The graph below, see figure 5, shows that the most preferred facility is the ability to rent rooms (15.4%), followed by drinks (8.8%) and meeting spaces (7.3%). As the facilities ‘drinks’ and ‘meeting spaces’ are already covered by previous recommendations, this section will focus on the ability to rent rooms. The ability to rent rooms for example refers to people wanting to rent a space for the organisation of activities (e.g. bingo evenings) and club gatherings (e.g. book clubs). Consequently, **we recommend De Commanderij to prioritise making it possible for residents to rent rooms due to the strong demand for this facility.** See appendix 3 for the full list of mentioned activities and facilities per category.



3.2.3 Preferred Activities and Facilities for Specific Target Groups

As was mentioned before, who considers visiting *De Commanderij* differs per age group and the age groups under 18 and 18-24 are the least inclined to visit *De Commanderij*. This means that special attention must be given to these age groups and their preferences to ensure *De Commanderij* attracts them as well. After attracting these target groups through their preferred activities and facilities, we anticipate that they will continue to engage with the community centre. Figure 6 and 7 show the most preferred activities and facilities (at least mentioned by 15% of respondents) of residents under 18 and 18 to 24.

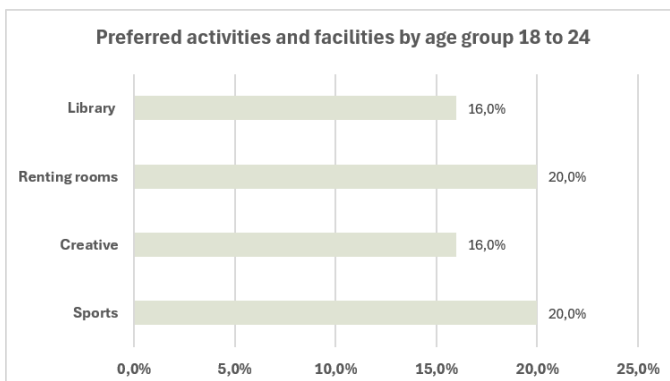


Figure 6: Preferred activities and facilities by age group under 18

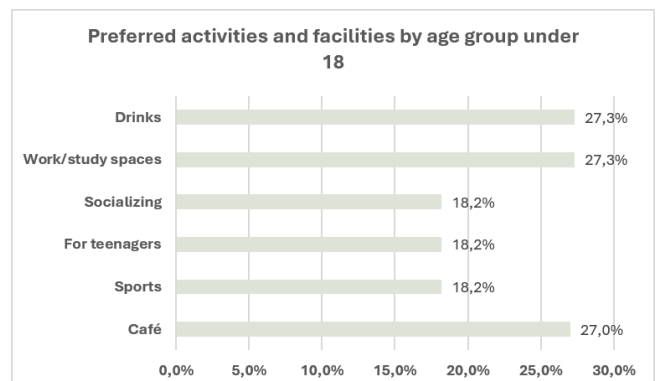


Figure 7: Preferred activities and facilities by age group 18 - 24

For the age group 18 to 24 the preferred facilities (a library and the possibility to rent rooms) and activities (creative activities and sports) are already incorporated into the existing plans of *De Commanderij* or earlier recommendations. Therefore, we do not have additional recommendations for this age group. For the age group under 18, part of their preferences is also already covered by previous recommendations, such as the preference for the availability of drinks and a café. However, in addition **for the age group under 18 we recommend *De Commanderij* to facilitate work/study spaces, and activities specifically for teenagers.** In the street interviews, teenagers described the stigma of only old people visiting a community centre as a barrier for engagement. Therefore, by creating activities specifically for teenagers, we anticipate this barrier will be overcome.

Age was the only variable which showed a significant relationship to whether people would consider visiting *De Commanderij*. Being part of the socio-demographic groups ‘differently abled people’, ‘parents with young children’, ‘newcomers’, ‘non-Dutch people’ and ‘people experiencing loneliness’ thus does not significantly impact whether people consider visiting *De Commanderij*. However, as these groups were specifically mentioned by the commissioners of this report as important target groups, an overview is provided of their preferred activities and facilities, see table 2. In case the commissioner still wants to specifically target these groups, this overview can be used to develop activities and facilities.

Socio-demographic groups	Most preferred activities	Most preferred facilities
Differently abled people	1. Creative activities 2. Clubs (e.g. related to: fishing, watching movies, bingo)	1. Petting zoo
Parents with young children	1. Creative activities 2. Activities specifically for young children (e.g. storytelling evenings, singing songs with toddlers, workshops)	1. Facilities specifically for young children (e.g. playing corner and ball pit)
Non-Dutch people	1. Creative activities 2. Sports	1. Renting rooms
Newcomers	1. Creative activities 2. Sports 3. Meals	1. Drinks 2. Facilities specifically for children (e.g. playing corner and ball pit)
People who experience loneliness	1. Creative activities 2. Sports 3. Socializing activities	1. Drinks 2. Renting rooms

Table 2: Most preferred activities and facilities per target group

3.2.4 Bringing Different Target Groups Together

Besides specifically targeting different target groups, bringing together different socio-demographic groups is also of importance. Both the participants of the focus group and the employee of *Cultura* identified the possibility of a third space to bring people together as one of its main strengths. Additionally, the employee of *Cultura* stated that social cohesion can be strengthened by bringing together different socio-demographic groups. This finding is also corroborated by various research, stating that positive, structured face-to-face interactions between members of different groups can lessen prejudice and improve intergroup relations, trust, empathy, and prosociality (Paolini et al., 2018; Orazani et al., 2023).

Through the quantitative analysis, focus group and interview with *Cultura* we were able to identify which activities can encourage different people to come together. These are the following: organising ‘markets’, celebrating Iftar or Christmas together with different believers, matchmaking days between young and old to eat together, playing (board) games, and activities to exchange knowledge and skills (e.g. a repair ‘café’). Additionally, the employee of *Cultura* said that one of the biggest challenges for them is to engage non-Dutch speakers and people with different cultural backgrounds. This will be elaborated on in section 3.3 Recommendations – Communication. However, through the survey we were able to identify that Dutch-speaking residents of Bennekom are interested in activities such as eating with refugees and cultural and language exchanges and language classes. Activities like these will result in a lower threshold for non-Dutch speakers (e.g. the people living in the AZC) to engage with *De Commanderij*. Thus, **we recommend *De Commanderij* to organise activities that bring together different socio-demographic groups, such as activities related to culture and language exchange, having meals together, (board) games afternoons/evenings and exchanging knowledge and skills.**

3.3 RECOMMENDATIONS - COMMUNICATION

3.3.1 General

Making *De Commanderij* an inclusive community centre requires a strong and inclusive communication strategy. The focus group, street interviews, survey and interview with *Malkander* show that communication is currently one of the most important points of attention, as respondents did not feel properly informed yet. Many respondents knew about the building, the renovation, or that the library would be located there, but not what the function of *De Commanderij* will be. For example, respondents did not know which organisations will be located there; when the reopening event will take place; what kind of activities or facilities will be provided; or who is part of the board. In addition, specific target groups, such as non-Dutch speakers, appear to be hardly reached.

Therefore, **we recommend *De Commanderij* to implement a transparent and continuous communication strategy that actively informs and engages residents of Bennekom about the development, reopening and use of *De Commanderij*, to increase awareness and participation within the community.**

Communication is an important condition for the functioning of a third place. The contribution of a third place to social cohesion and participation is only possible when residents know that the facility exists, understand what they can do there and feel addressed by communication, which was also strongly emphasized in the in-depth interviews, with both *Cultura* and *Malkander*. This is in line with an article by the OECD on citizen participation, which states that transparent

communication about goals, process, and people involved not only increases residents' confidence, but also encourages participation in social initiatives. When residents receive insufficient information, the chance of involvement decreases (OECD, 2020). The barrier that came up regularly in the street interviews, survey and focus group was that many residents do not know what *De Commanderij* will look like and what function it will have. *Cultura* experiences similar challenges. The in-depth interview shows that there are still residents who are not aware of the activities, facilities and possibilities in their local community centre. As a result, some people do not take advantage of the offer, even if it suits their needs well. Transparent and continuous communication is therefore crucial, as it increases awareness, lowers barriers to participation and helps residents connect with the social opportunities offered by *De Commanderij*.

For *De Commanderij*, this means that communication should not only provide practical information about activities or events, but also communicate the identity and purpose of the centre. Residents should understand that *De Commanderij* aims to be an accessible meeting place for all people in Bennekom, where social interaction, community initiatives and informal encounters are encouraged. Communication should therefore emphasise that people are welcome not only to participate in organised activities, but also to meet others, spend time in the building or make use of its facilities. Adding to that, it can be helpful to develop a recognizable communication strategy, for example, by determining brand colours and font, so that recognisability is increased. This helps residents to recognize and remember communications from *De Commanderij* more quickly. For a new community centre such as *De Commanderij*, recognisable communication can contribute to building a clear identity and position within the community.

To achieve all of this, it would be recommended to appoint a person (staff or volunteer) who focuses entirely on communication, including tasks such as developing a corporate identity and maintaining the website. However, we realize that this may not be within the capacity of *De Commanderij*, so these tasks may need to be distributed under the board and potential volunteers.

This recommendation provides the overarching framework for communication within *De Commanderij*. The following recommendations translate this framework into more concrete actions by focusing on multilingual communication, the use of offline/online channels, and communication through existing social networks.

3.3.2 Multilingual Approach

As was described before, one of the biggest challenges mentioned by *Cultura* concerns reaching non-Dutch speakers. Activities and information provision are often in Dutch, causing non-Dutch speakers to be excluded. In the street interviews and survey, 72.2% of non-Dutch speakers indicated that they did not know about *De Commanderij*. This could be part of the language barrier, but may also be due to the limited communication from *De Commanderij*. Research into multilingual communication shows that language is a crucial condition for inclusive participation, and that organizations must actively invest in multilingual information provision to prevent exclusion (Gazzola, 2016).

Therefore, **we recommend De Commanderij to develop a multilingual communication strategy in which Dutch remains the main language, but where information is also available in English and possibly other languages.**

At the same time, this requires a careful approach. It is important for *De Commanderij* to be aware that there are also residents who have a negative perception of the use of English. During the research phase of this project, there were residents who disliked the use of English in our research and felt put off because of this or indicated that it would work counterproductive or scare people away. We would therefore recommend a multilingual strategy in which Dutch remains the main language, but essential information is also made available in English and possibly other languages, to simultaneously address concerns of the residents and stay inclusive for no-Dutch speakers. How exactly this can be implemented is explained in further detail in the following section under the specific channels.

3.3.3 Offline/Online Channels

The street interviews and the survey show that traditional communication channels, such as flyers and local newspapers, mainly reach older residents. Teenagers, young adults, and newcomers are less easily reached through these channels and prefer online communication. A uniform communication strategy will therefore be insufficiently effective. A combination of different channels, both online and offline, is recommended to reach as many residents of Bennekom as possible. See appendix 4 for an overview of all mentioned communication channels by the respondents. The findings show that communication preferences differ substantially between target groups. As shown in table 3, each target group has its own preferred channels, highlighting the need for a diversified communication strategy. Therefore, **we recommend De Commanderij to combine online and offline communication channels, including website, newsletters, Facebook, Instagram, flyers/posters, and an information board at the building.**

Socio-demographic groups	Most preferred communication channels
Differently abled people	Posters Website Information board
Parents with young children	Website E-mail newsletters Flyers/Instagram
Non-Dutch people	WhatsApp E-mail newsletter Website
Newcomers	E-mail newsletter Instagram Flyers
People who experience loneliness	Website E-mail newsletter Facebook
Youth	Instagram TikTok Information board
Elderly	E-mail newsletter Website Newsletter/EdeStad

Table 3: Preferred communication channels per target group

Nearly 40% of respondents indicated that they preferred the website as a communication channel. Therefore, the website must function as a central place where residents can find up-to-date information about the progress of the renovation, the opening date, activities, volunteer opportunities, contact details, etc. The focus group showed that residents value up-to-date information and news. We found that the current website is not up to date since, for example, the opening date is still indicated to be in September. It is important that the website is updated regularly. Additionally, the website is currently only available in Dutch. We recommend that *De Commanderij* also create a button for an English page, so that people can easily switch languages at the top of the page when Dutch is not their preferred language.

Another means of communication that was frequently mentioned in the street interviews and survey was via email, especially for the age group 20-30. A periodic email newsletter, for example weekly or monthly, can actively inform residents about developments and the activity schedule. If the website is up to date, the newsletter can refer to the website for more detailed information. We recommend developing the newsletter already before the building is officially opened, because respondents also frequently indicate that they want to stay informed about developments regarding the renovation, opening and management. An email newsletter is also very suitable for reaching non-Dutch speakers, because it can easily be developed separately in several languages, for example, by creating an English-speaking and a Dutch-speaking mailing list.

For younger target groups, social media is the most effective means of communication. The most frequently mentioned channels are Facebook and Instagram. These channels can be used to announce activities, but we recommend to also use them to highlight the facilities and living room character, such as study places. Young people indicate that they are more interested in going for a coffee or studying, not necessarily in activities. *Cultura* indicates that it has had good experiences with paid Instagram campaigns aimed at specific age groups. This offers opportunities to reach young adults who are currently underrepresented in their community initiative. Our non-Dutch speaking respondents, who mainly live in the AZC, indicated WhatsApp as their preferred means of communication. Should *De Commanderij* use WhatsApp for their communication, we advise them to create a private channel. In this channel, information can be shared with a large group of followers, while individual sensitive information, such as phone numbers, remain protected. We recommend creating a Dutch and an English channel, in line with our multilingual approach recommendation, and distributing QR-codes via other channels, such as the newsletter, so that people can easily subscribe to the WhatsApp channel.

Although online communication is a preferred medium for many, offline communication remains important as well, especially for the older target groups. In particular the older target group (60+) indicated that they would like to be reached via the local newspaper. This emerged both in the survey, street interviews, and focus group. We heard various opinions regarding the newspaper *Edestad*; some indicated that this was their most important source of information regarding neighborhood activities, while others stated they never read it. The street interviews revealed several times that people miss the Bennekom newspaper. During the focus group, a participant shared that a Bennekom newspaper is returning, which was met with a very positive response from the other focus group participants. Our recommendation is therefore to collaborate primarily with the Bennekom newspaper, in addition to the *Edestad*.

Moreover, flyers and posters remain relevant for specific target groups. Flyers have a consistent reach across most adult age groups, peaking for 40–49 (29.3%) and 70–79 (24.2%). It is a labour-intensive method, but it would be a good strategy to highlight important activities, for example, to

announce the opening to the residents of Bennekom. Residents of the assisted living *Schoolstraat* and the AZC also specifically mentioned that they would like posters to hang up in their shared spaces. This also offers another opportunity for the multilingual approach to add English information to the posters for the AZC.

Since *De Commanderij* is a relatively large building in the city centre of Bennekom, many residents regularly pass by. Several people in the street interviews indicated that this is the reason they are aware of the renovation of *De Commanderij*. An information board outside the building can therefore be an accessible way to inform passers-by about what *De Commanderij* is, and the activities of that week. Our quantitative analysis has also shown that information boards in front of *De Commanderij* are valued significantly by differently abled people and thus is an important form of communication to create inclusiveness to reach people with specific needs.

Another impactful way of communicating about the existence of *De Commanderij* that we highly recommend is a festive opening day. This can inform residents and contribute to awareness and understanding of the concept of *De Commanderij*. This can also be an opportunity to find volunteers by flyer about their possibilities during the open day. *Malkander* suggested something similar by having information stands with information on what kind of support is needed and how people can get involved. In the street interviews and focus group, it was indicated that people would like to see an opening celebration to get acquainted with the spaces, the board and volunteers, and future activities. Several people in street interviews and the survey also mentioned that they would like *De Commanderij* to host open house days in the future, which may possibly attract more people than the facility will usually attract. This is also part of the outreach strategy of *Cultura*, which uses the open house day as a way of raising awareness about their facilities and offers.

3.3.4 Through Existing Networks

Our interviews at the AZC have shown that WhatsApp is one of the most important communication channels within the facility. The AZC itself has a WhatsApp channel in which important initiatives and activities are shared. *De Commanderij* could collaborate with the manager of the AZC, who can share news items on their WhatsApp channel. The same applies to assisted living and residential care locations. Residents from *De Schoolstraat* indicated that they would like to receive information from the manager or supervisor and would like to see posters in their central hall. Our advice is to actively forward newsletters to managers of such initiatives, so that they can share it with their residents or pass it on verbally. Thus, **we recommend *De Commanderij* to collaborate with the Asylum Seekers' Centre in Wageningen-Hoog, care institutions (*De Schoolstraat* and *Opella*) and schools, as intermediary organisations, to spread information about activities and facilities through their networks.**

3.4 RECOMMENDATIONS - PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships can play a crucial role in overcoming barriers that would limit the inclusiveness of a third space. Mostly in the focus group and in the in-depth interviews but also in the street interviews and the survey, certain barriers and limitations like space and distance came up in relation to certain partnerships. In this part, we suggest some possible partnerships mentioned by participants and respondents that can help realise a more inclusive *Commanderij* to overcome these barriers.

In the focus group, the concern that *De Commanderij* might not have enough space for all possible future activities came up. To combat that concern, an employee of *Malkander* and the participants in the focus group highlighted that cooperation with other facilities, such as *De Brink*, *De Smeedplaats*, or local churches, can provide access to a more spacious facility that is better suited for certain activities or can host a second activity when *De Commanderij* is double booked. Therefore, **we recommend *De Commanderij* to work together with places like *De Smeedplaats*, *De Brink*, or local churches to ensure that there is enough space for planned activities.**

Another crucial barrier to participating in a third space, identified both in the literature (Yu, 2025) and in our research, is the distance and reachability of a third space. While the vast majority of surveyed residents in Bennekom considered *De Commanderij* reachable for themselves, an interview with an employee of a care facility highlighted the need for transportation services for some residents. To overcome this barrier and ensure that *De Commanderij* remains accessible for differently abled people, participants of the focus group suggested that *De Commanderij* could cooperate with the transportation service, *BelloBus*. The *BelloBus* is meant for inhabitants of Bennekom that are less mobile and do not have their own means of transportation. It is affordable and completely run by volunteers; people can call them when they need to get somewhere in the municipality of Ede or Wageningen but have no means to get there. *De Commanderij* can inform inhabitants of Bennekom about this service, which can help them get to *De Commanderij*. Next to that, for activities that might be of high interest to the people who experience accessibility issues, we advise *De Commanderij* to inform the *BelloBus* in advance. Volunteers from this organization can then drive interested people to *De Commanderij*. Doing this and advertising it well, around twice a month, increases accessibility and will make *De Commanderij* more inclusive. Therefore, **we recommend that *De Commanderij* should work together with *BelloBus* to bring and return people to *De Commanderij* for whom it is less accessible.**

The *BelloBus* is part of *Vraagt U Maar*. *Vraagt U Maar* is an initiative that provides consultancy on various topics such as housing, well-being, and care. Working together with *Vraagt U Maar* for consultation purposes is also a partnership possibility, since the organization is in line with the value of *De Commanderij*, namely, to foster well-being under the residents of Bennekom. Although *Vraagt U Maar* has its own facility to conduct consultation hours, a partnership with *De Commanderij* could be valuable: the room for consultation is located in a health facility, which can be a barrier for some people to make use of this service. If *Vraagt U Maar* hosts evenings where people can ask their questions related to well-being and care in the facilities of *De Commanderij*, the threshold to participate might be lower, which results in increased accessibility for information about well-being. In addition, sharing information about the possibilities of *Vraagt U Maar* and referring people to their normal office can help people who struggle to find the right point of contact to answer their questions, at any time. Therefore, **we recommend that *De Commanderij* should work together with *Vraagt U Maar* to have consultation hours where people can ask questions related to well-being, care and housing, in order to lower the barrier to seek help.**

Next to this, a collaboration with the local police in a similar way to *Vraagt U Maar* could be initiated. During the focus group discussion, participants highlighted that consultation hours with the local police would be highly appreciated to share concerns that affect their neighbourhoods and ask questions. Police agents that are living in or close to Bennekom may be free after working

hours and willing to be in contact with residents in *De Commanderij*. In the report of the CHE (2025) it is shown that a local police agent would like to have contact with *De Commanderij* so they can have an overview of what is happening in Bennekom, since there is no police station in Bennekom, only in Ede. The police agent said it is helpful to stay in contact with a local community space, to keep a connection to Bennekom. This partnership can be useful, for example around the big issue in Bennekom of (online) scamming of elderly people. *De Commanderij* could be a place to spread awareness about online safety via the local police. Therefore, **we recommend *De Commanderij* to keep in contact with the local police to inform and warn, but also to give the police a sense of what is happening in Bennekom.**

4. CONCLUSION

This consultancy project aimed to answer the question: “*How can De Commanderij optimize its functioning and strategy to attract and engage different socio-demographic groups in Bennekom?*” Based on our findings, *De Commanderij* can do this by creating an open and welcoming meeting space, offering activities and facilities that match residents’ interests, involving residents in the organisation and management of activities and facilities, communicating through online and offline channels, and collaborating with local organisations.

The answer to the main research question can be given based on the answers to the three sub-questions. Regarding the first sub-question related to who is currently (in)active in community initiatives, younger residents, especially people aged 25-29, non-Dutch residents, and parents with young children seem to be less active. However, this does not mean that they are not interested in *De Commanderij*. Parents with young children showed interest in activities for children, while people aged 25-29 showed a great interest in participating in *De Commanderij*. For non-Dutch residents, as well as age groups under 18 and 18-24, additional attention might be needed to attract and engage them.

For the second sub-question related to barriers of involvement in community initiatives, lack of time was the most frequently mentioned barrier. Another barrier for general engagement in community life was the expectation of resident to find nothing of interest for themselves. Specifically, for visiting *De Commanderij*, identified potential barriers also include limited information and the idea that community centres are mainly intended for older people.

To answer the third sub-question related to overcoming barriers for participation, our findings show that *De Commanderij* can lower these barriers by offering flexible activities, providing an informal meeting space, and clearly communicating about the development, reopening and use of *De Commanderij*. Another important point is to show that the activities are enjoyable and relevant to younger residents, so that *De Commanderij* is not seen as a place only for older people. Moreover, participation can be stimulated by offering creative, sports, and social activities, together with a café or coffee corner, meeting spaces, and rooms that residents can rent. Activities such as eating together, games, cultural exchange, and sharing skills can also bring different groups together. Continuous communication through both online and offline channels and partnerships with schools, care institutions, the AZC, *Malkander*, and other local organisations can help reach different groups. Also recommended are partnerships with organisations such as *De Brink* or *De Smeedplaats* to overcome barriers related to space and with *BelloBus* for barriers related to accessibility. Working together with the (local) police and *Vraagt U Maar* can lower the threshold to share concerns and ask questions, which helps make *De Commanderij* more inclusive.

Based on our findings, three recommendations should be highly prioritised and implemented as soon as possible. First, *De Commanderij* should prioritise taking a bottom-up approach to the management and organisation of activities and facilities to ensure that they are approachable and sustainable. We prioritise this because residents have clearly indicated that they desire to be involved in the development, management and organisation of *De Commanderij*, especially also before it opens in October. They want to be involved and to be able to provide insights and feedback. Second, *De Commanderij* should prioritise organising the most requested activities, namely activities related to creativity, sports, and socialising. This should happen already now since the planning of activities is still ongoing and the priorities of the residents can be taken into account during that phase. This is important because a lack of interest was identified as one of the barriers to participation. By offering activities that residents are interested in, the chance that they will visit *De Commanderij* may increase. Third, *De Commanderij* should prioritise combining online and offline communication channels, such as the website, flyers and posters and a festive

open day. We recommend prioritising this, because many residents still have limited information about *De Commanderij*, and reaching a diverse group is possible through various communication channels and should already start before *De Commanderij* opens.

Our findings also connect to wider developments in society. Increasing individualisation and time pressure as a result of increasing individual responsibilities can weaken social relationships and increase loneliness. In our research, some residents reported feeling lonely or less connected to Bennekom, while residents who were active in community initiatives generally felt more connected. This supports the expectation that *De Commanderij* could contribute to social cohesion and hopefully reduce loneliness in Bennekom.

The finding should be interpreted carefully because women and Dutch residents were overrepresented, while men, non-Dutch residents, and some age groups were underrepresented. Therefore, the conclusions may represent the perspectives of some groups more strongly than others. However, these overrepresentations were taken into account when developing the recommendations.

For further research, we recommend *De Commanderij* to repeat similar research as we did now, a year after its reopening. Although our recommendations include a re-evaluation process to identify underrepresented groups and a bottom-up approach that involves residents' perspectives in the organization of *De Commanderij*, extensive research about the inclusiveness can give further insights into why certain groups are actually underrepresented after the facility is open. During our research we could only ask the people for possible barriers that would prevent them from visiting *De Commanderij*. However, once the facility is open people can give more concrete answers why they actually do not participate. This research can also be used to examine which communication channels and partnerships are most effective to engage all different groups. One aspect that we missed during our research is to investigate to which times in the day people prefer to participate in specific activities. This knowledge gap could also be addressed in further research.

Overall, *De Commanderij* has the potential to become an inclusive third space in Bennekom. However, becoming inclusive requires more than opening the building and organising activities. It requires continuous communication, cooperation with local organizations, involvement of residents in the management and organisation of activities, and regular evaluation of who is and is not being reached.

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6. AI Usage Declaration

DECLARATION 1	
We, group 3708, have used generative AI applications for the writing of this document or parts thereof. <i>After using this tool, I have reviewed and edited the content as needed and take full responsibility for the content of the document.</i>	
What tool(s) have you used? <i>List the tools that you have used including the model, version and link to the tool.</i>	1. Grammarly AI tool, for grammar https://www.grammarly.com/ 2. DeepL for translating our recommendations to Dutch https://www.deepl.com/en/translator 3. For the pamphlet we used ChatGPT to create and organise a visual https://chatgpt.com/
What prompts have you used? <i>Provide a list of prompts you have used</i> <i>Add the conversation as an appendix to this declaration.</i>	1. No prompts, just to correct grammar mistakes 2. No prompts, just to translate text 3. [I entered the Partnerships text here] Make this into a network diagram.
Why did you use this genAI tool?	1. For grammar, because group members have dyslexia and people make grammar mistakes. 2. To make a proper translation of our recommendations 3. None of us have extensive experience making visual overviews, therefore we asked AI for help
How did you use the output of the genAI tool?	1. As part of the text 2. We put the translated recommendations in the appendix 3. We used the created visual in the pamphlet
Where can your prompts and outputs be found? (e.g. appendix, separate repository etc.)	1. X 2. X 3. Appendix 6

7. Appendix

Appendix 1: The Recommendations in Dutch

Priority of implementation:

➡ = Highly recommended to implement as soon as possible

Activiteiten en faciliteiten:

Wat betreft de organisatiestrategie:

- Evalueer de activiteiten en faciliteiten om de zes maanden door bij te houden welke groepen niet aanwezig zijn bij De Commanderij, en pas de activiteiten en faciliteiten aan voor ondervertegenwoordigde groepen.
- Wees zo open mogelijk, zodat bewoners op elk moment langs kunnen komen om te genieten van een informele ontmoetingsruimte.
- Zorg voor een gastheer of -vrouw (manager of vrijwilliger) die voortdurend aanwezig is om een gastvrije sfeer te creëren en die fungeert als aanspreekpunt in geval van discriminatie of een noodsituatie (moet een BHV'er zijn en bij voorkeur een workshop over inclusiviteit hebben gevolgd).
- ➡ • Kies voor een bottom-up benadering bij het beheer en de organisatie van activiteiten en faciliteiten om ervoor te zorgen dat deze toegankelijk en duurzaam zijn. Bereik dit door:
 - Bewoners te betrekken bij de organisatie van activiteiten
 - Elke zes maanden een gemeenschapsbijeenkomst te organiseren om de visie van bewoners op de ruimte te bespreken en samen met het bestuur de toekomst van De Commanderij vorm te geven.

Wat betreft de gewenste activiteiten en voorzieningen in het algemeen:

- ➡ • Organiseer de activiteiten waar bewoners het meest om vragen, namelijk activiteiten op het gebied van creativiteit, sport en gezelligheid.
- Realiseer indien mogelijk een echt café waar mensen kunnen zitten en iets kunnen drinken. Als dit niet mogelijk is, richt dan een ruime koffiehoeke in met een koffiemachine voor individuen en filterkoffie voor grotere groepen.
- Geef prioriteit aan het mogelijk maken dat bewoners ruimtes kunnen huren, gezien de grote vraag naar deze voorziening

Bewoners in de leeftijdsgroep onder de 18 jaar hebben speciale aandacht nodig, aangezien zij het minst geneigd zijn om De Commanderij te bezoeken. Daarom:

- Zorg, naast de hierboven genoemde activiteiten en voorzieningen, voor werk- en studieruimtes en activiteiten die specifiek op tieners zijn gericht.

Wat betreft het samenbrengen van verschillende doelgroepen:

- Organiseer activiteiten die gericht zijn op het samenbrengen van verschillende sociaal-demografische groepen, door middel van activiteiten op het gebied van:
 - Cultuur en taal uitwisseling
 - Gezamenlijke maaltijden
 - (Bord)spelletjes middagen/avonden

- o Activiteiten om kennis en vaardigheden uit te wisselen

Communicatie:

Een transparante en doorlopende communicatiestrategie invoeren waarmee de inwoners van Bennekom wekelijks worden geïnformeerd over de renovatie, de heropening en daarna de activiteiten en voorzieningen van De Commanderij, om het bewustzijn en de betrokkenheid binnen de gemeenschap te vergroten.

Deze communicatiestrategie omvat:

- Het ontwikkelen van een meertalige aanpak waarbij Nederlands de hoofdtaal blijft, maar waarbij informatie ook beschikbaar is in het Engels en eventueel andere talen, afhankelijk van de vraag.
- ➡ • Het combineren van online en offline communicatiekanalen, waaronder de website, nieuwsbrieven, Facebook, Instagram, flyers/posters en een informatiebord bij het gebouw, evenals een feestelijke open dag om tegemoet te komen aan de behoeften van verschillende doelgroepen.
- Samenwerken met het asielzoekerscentrum in Wageningen-Hoog, zorginstellingen (De *Schoolstraat* en *Opella*) en scholen, als bemiddelende organisaties, om via hun netwerken informatie over activiteiten en voorzieningen te verspreiden.

Partnerschappen:

- Werk samen met instellingen zoals De Smeedplaats, De Brink of plaatselijke kerken om ervoor te zorgen dat er voldoende ruimte is voor de geplande activiteiten.
- Werk samen met *BelloBus* om mensen voor wie De Commanderij minder goed bereikbaar is, heen en weer te vervoeren.
- Werk samen met Vraagt U Maar om spreekuren te organiseren waar mensen vragen kunnen stellen over welzijn, zorg en huisvesting, om de drempel om hulp te zoeken te verlagen.
- Houd contact met de lokale politie om de lokale bewoners te informeren en te waarschuwen, maar ook om de politie een beeld te geven van wat er in Bennekom gebeurt.

Appendix 2: List of Preferred Activities and Facilities by Different Target Groups

Numbers indicate the percentage of residents from specific group that mentioned a facility/activity.

Type	Feature	Under 18	18-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	Male	Female	No young children	Young children	No disability	Has disability	Non-Dutch-speaking	Dutch-speaking	Newcomer	0-2y Residence	3-10y Residence	11-30y Residence	Over 30y	Non-Dutch	Nationality	Dutch	Nationality	Total
Activity	Buying/Exchanging	9.1	0	0	3	3.4	0	2.6	0	0	2.6	1.6	1.5	3.6	2	0	0	2.1	0	2.1	3.4	1.1	0	2.1	40.2			
Activity	Cafe	27.3	0	12.5	9.1	8.6	0	20.5	18.2	7.1	9.3	10.9	11.3	7.3	9.5	50	5.9	10.7	17.2	10.6	5.6	12.8	5.6	10.8	280.8			
Activity	Clubs	0	0	0	6.1	10.3	0	12.8	24.2	0	10.5	7.6	9.8	3.6	7.9	33.3	0	9.1	0	12.8	7.9	9.6	0	9.1	174.6			
Activity	Creative	0	16	50	48.5	39.7	35.1	46.2	42.4	7.1	15.8	44	34.1	41.8	34.8	66.7	55.6	34.3	50	40.4	31.5	33	52.6	34.4	854			
Activity	Culture	0	0	0	6.1	10.3	5.4	2.6	12.1	7.1	10.5	4.3	5.9	7.3	5.9	16.7	0	6.6	3.3	12.8	6.7	3.2	0	6.6	113.4			
Activity	Dance	9.1	0	9.1	5.2	0	10.3	7.1	2.6	6.5	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.5	0	5.6	5.4	6.7	4.3	3.4	7.4	5.3	5.4	115.9			
Activity	Elderly	0	0	0	0	8.6	8.1	7.7	9.1	14.3	2.6	7.6	6.3	5.5	6.3	0	11.1	5.8	0	4.3	6.7	8.5	10.5	5.8	128.8			
Activity	Entertainment	0	0	0	12.1	10.3	8.1	5.1	6.1	7.1	6.6	7.1	6.3	9.1	6.7	16.7	0	7.4	3.3	10.6	6.7	6.4	0	7.5	143.2			
Activity	Games	9.1	4	25	15.2	5.2	5.4	7.7	6.1	21.4	13.2	6.5	9.3	5.5	7.9	16.7	33.3	6.6	13.3	12.8	6.7	6.4	31.6	6.6	275.5			
Activity	Informative	0	4	0	12.1	8.6	0	7.7	15.2	14.3	11.8	6	8.3	5.5	7.9	0	0	8.3	0	17	3.4	9.6	0	8.3	148			
Activity	Language	0	8	25	6.1	1.7	2.7	0	3	0	2.6	3.8	3.4	3.6	3.6	0	22.2	2.1	13.3	8.4	1.1	1.1	21.1	2.1	132.9			
Activity	Meals	9.1	4	12.5	21.2	8.6	0	5.1	15.2	0	10.5	8.2	8.3	10.9	8.7	0	22.2	7.9	23.3	8.5	6.7	6.4	26.3	7.5	231.1			
Activity	Music	0	8	0	6.2	12.1	10.8	0	18.2	7.1	10.7	7.6	8.3	9.1	8.7	0	5.6	8.7	6.7	8.5	9	8.6	5.3	8.8	148			
Activity	Others	9.1	0	0	0	1.7	0	0	0	1.3	0.5	0	1	0	0.8	0	0	0.8	0	2.1	1.1	0	0.8	0	0.8	19.2		
Activity	Outdoor	0	0	0	0	1.7	0	2.6	0	0	2.6	1.1	1	3.6	1.6	0	0	1.7	0	2.1	2.2	1.1	0	1.7	29.1			
Activity	Parents	0	8	0	6.1	3.4	2.7	2.6	0	0	2.6	3.3	2	7.3	3.2	0	5.6	2.9	3.3	2.1	4.5	2.1	5.3	2.9	69.9			
Activity	Socializing	18.2	8	12.5	18.2	20.7	10.8	20.5	24.2	0	15.8	16.8	16.1	18.2	16.6	16.7	11.1	16.9	16.7	21.3	16.9	13.8	10.5	17	357.5			
Activity	Sports	18.2	20	12.5	24.2	15.5	30.4	33.3	24.2	28.6	25	23.9	25.4	20	24.5	16.7	33.3	23.6	26.7	29.8	23.6	21.3	36.8	23.2	962.7			
Activity	Support	0	4	0	6.1	17.2	2.7	7.7	12.1	0	7.9	8.2	8.3	7.3	8.3	0	0	8.7	3.3	12.8	6.7	8.5	0	8.7	138.5			
Activity	Teenagers	18.2	4	12.5	9.1	17.2	0	7.7	0	9.2	7.1	5.4	16.4	7.5	16.7	0	8.3	0	8.4	11.2	7.4	0	8.3	172.6				
Activity	Themed	0	0	0	0	1.8	2.7	0	0	7.1	0	1.6	1.5	0	1.2	0	0	1.2	0	1.2	0	1.1	2.1	0	1.2	11.5		
Activity	Young Children	0	0	12.5	30.3	17.2	2.7	2.6	3	0	5.3	10.9	2.4	34.5	9.5	0	11.1	9.1	6.7	12.8	7.9	9.6	10.5	9.1	207.7			
Facility	Children	9.1	0	0	15.2	6.9	2.7	0	3	0	7.9	3.3	2.4	12.7	3.6	30	5.6	4.5	6.7	6.4	4.5	3.2	5.3	4.6	157.6			
Facility	Creative	0	0	0	3	5.2	8.1	0	0	0	2.6	3.3	3.4	1.8	3.2	0	0	3.3	0	2.1	1.1	6.4	0	3.3	49.8			
Facility	Drinks	27.3	0	0	12.1	5.2	5.4	10.3	18.2	7.1	10.5	8.2	8.8	9.1	9.1	0	0	9.5	6.7	8.5	4.5	13.8	0	9.5	183.8			
Facility	Library	0	16	0	12.1	3.4	0	10.3	12.1	7.1	6.6	7.6	6.8	9.1	7.5	0	5.6	7.4	3.3	8.5	5.6	9.6	5.3	7.5	151.4			
Facility	Meeting	0	0	12.5	3	10.3	5.4	10.3	15.2	0	7.9	7.1	7.3	7.3	7.5	0	0	7.9	3.3	8.5	4.5	10.6	0	7.9	126.5			
Facility	Others	0	0	0	3	1.7	0	0	0	0	0	1.1	0	3.6	0.8	0	0	0.8	3.3	2.1	0	0	0	0.8	17.2			
Facility	Renting Rooms	0	20	12.5	12.1	22.4	13.5	12.8	12.1	21.4	13.2	16.3	12.2	27.3	15.8	0	0	16.5	3.3	14.9	12.4	22.3	0	16.6	297.6			
Facility	Sports	9.1	0	12.5	0	5.2	0	0	9.1	7.1	5.3	2.7	3.4	3.6	3.6	0	5.6	3.3	3.3	2.1	3.4	4.5	5.3	5.3	5.3	92.2		
Facility	Work/Study	27.3	0	12.5	9.1	6.9	0	2.6	0	0	6.6	3.8	3.9	7.3	4.7	0	5.6	4.5	0	4.3	6.7	4.3	5.3	4.6	120			

Appendix 3: List of All Mentioned Activities and Facilities

Activities

Creative

Workshops (drawing, arts and crafts, video-&photography)

Arts and crafts

Painting

Pottery workshop

Sewing/knitting/crochet

Arranging flowers

Theater

Story writing lessons

Nail arts

Hair braiding

Clay

Improv

Creative Café

Body painting

Ceramics

Diamond painting

Music

Music concerts

Choir

Music lessons

Singing (specifically)

Dance

Dance

Moving to music

Sports

Billiards/poule

Chess

Table tennis

Yoga

Hyrox

Meditation/mindfulness

Jeu de Boules

Tai Chi

Chi Geng

Airhockey

Fishing

Darts (soft darts)

Avondvierdaagse

Entertainment

Bingo

Comedy

Pubquiz

Movie night
Sing-along-night
Scavenger hunt
Lottery (raffel)

Informative

Informative nights (health or greenery in the garden)
Networking activities surrounding certain themes
Readings (lezingen)
Book presentations
Activities about local history

Socializing

Moments of getting together and meeting new people
Talking groups
Connect to Dutch residents
Village parties
Social events
Inclusion possibilities for people with migration background
Cultural and sexual diversity inclusion possibilities
Working together with different societal organisations to create more connection between the residents of Bennekom
"Kletsavonden"
Increase in social cohesion
Icebreaker games, sports for old and young together
Youth & elderly societeit
"Gluren bij de bureen"

Meals

Cooking and baking workshops or moments
Eating together
Providing cheap meals to bring people together
Eating together with refugees
Cooking and eating together for different cultures
Selling oliebollen during winter
Meals for single people/widows

Support

Help for vulnerable residents
Community projects (for vulnerable people, elderly, newcomers, teens, etc)
Reading to children with special attention
Activities for adult men
Activities for people with autism
Activities for newcomers
Activities for single people/widows
Activities for people who have beginning dementia
Repair cafe

Cafe

Drinks

Coffee moments (general)

Clubs

"Women circle "

Philosophy group

LARP

Clubs

Reading club

Filatelie club (?)

Cosplay meeting

Book clubs for young people

Film club

Book club

Culture

Cultural activities

Opportunities for expositions

Games

Games

Bridgeclub/nights

Klaverjas nights

Language

Dutch lessons for immigrants

Language courses (e.g. Spanish)

Language cafe night

Language exchange

Young Children

Storytelling evening (voorlees avond)

Children theater

Young children afternoons (peuter, kleuter)

Singing songs with and for toddlers

Beursjes (child)

Baking or cooking for children

"Music op schoot"

Workshops for children (0-4 & 6-8)

Teenagers

Games for youth

Disco for young people

Meetings for (christian) youth

Creative activities for youth

Activities for children under 16

Activities for young adults

Youth evenings

Youth inloop drinks (borrel) night

Parents

Socializing moment for young moms

Coffee moments for young mothers

Meetings for parents

Parenting course

Play day for parents with children

Elderly

Activities for elderly people

Senior dancing

Elderly theater

Coffee morning for elderly people

Sports for elderly people

Dining for elderly people

Outdoor

Gardening

Dog activities

Buying and Exchanging

Secondhand store

Market

Clothes swap

Plant exchange market

Themed

"Celebrations" surrounding Easter, Sinterklaas, etc.

Fairs surrounding themes (Spring, Sinterklaas)

Others

Library activities

Hobbies to try out once or twice

Opening day on the first day with free things

Something with computers

Facilities

Meeting

Room to hang out and meet people

"Inloop" (also specifically for elderly)

Meeting room for lonely people

Place for healthy elderly people

Place for youth to meet

Place where elderly and youth can connect

Party locations for youth

Work and Study

Flexible working place for health care workers
Flexible working place
Study places
Meeting room (vergaderingen)
Sit/workplace

Renting Rooms

Rent rooms for small parties
Rent rooms for individuals

Sports

Table tennis
Pool table
Airhockey table
Pool

Creative

Repetition room to practice musical instruments
Creative studio
Opportunities for expositions

Drinks

Bar
Coffee corner

Library

Book & games library, incl. puzzles
Library

Children

Ball pit
Petting zoo
Playing corner for children

Others

Kitchen
Repair cafe
Quiet zone/place to rest
Nature
Language corner
Poule table

Appendix 4: List of All Mentioned Communication Channels

1. Facebook
2. Instagram
3. Flyers
4. EdeStad
5. Posters
6. Email
7. Whatsapp
8. Word of mouth
9. Information board
10. Website
11. Newspaper
12. Tiktok
13. Newsletter
14. TV
15. Others

Appendix 5: List of Barriers Preventing Engagement with Community Initiatives

1. No time
2. Nothing of interest
3. Hard to reach
4. Language
5. Mental health
6. Not fitting in
7. Others

Appendix 6: Conversation for AI Declaration

ChatGPT Geheugen vol Gratis aanbieding Delen ...

Partnerships can play a crucial role in overcoming barriers that would limit the inclusiveness of a third space. [LM32.1] Mostly in the focus group and in the in-depth interviews but also in the street interviews and the survey, certain barriers and limitations like space and distance came up in relation to certain partnerships. In this part, we suggest some possible partnerships mentioned by them that can help realise a more inclusive Commanderij that could help overcome these barriers. In the focus group, the concern that De Commanderij might not have enough space for all possible future activities came up. To combat that concern, an employee of Malkander and the participants in the focus group highlighted that cooperation with other facilities, such as De

[Meer weergeven](#)

+ Stel een vraag

ChatGPT kan fouten maken. Controleer belangrijke informatie.