

## **Visit in Wathlingen**

At the beginning of December after the preparatory work for the international congress in Utrecht C. ZIJDEVELD, W. SCHAFFNER, H.J. KEFEDER and J. ROEMER went to visit the “4 Generation Park” in Wathlingen. They wanted to see and get information about this successful project.

The “4 Generation Park” was presented during the international seminar in Berlin in summer. Mayor T. HARMS and K. BIEDERMANN explained the intergenerational meeting point also including the allotment gardeners with their site directly boarding the project.

Attention to this project had already been drawn in 2009, when it had been granted the prize “Gardens in the town planning” of Low-Saxony and then had received a year later a special prize on federal level. In Berlin in 2013 Wathlingen received the Office diploma for social activities.

For this visit T. HARMS had not only invited K. BIEDERMANN, member of the executive board of the 4 generation park, but also U. DOLLA president of the tennis federation of Low-Saxony, region Südheide, the person in charge of elderly people M. WILLE, P. SIEVERT-JÜHNKE of the socialist party fraction and finally, the second president R. RADSCHUN and the treasurer E. MEYER of the allotment association.

Office president C. ZIJDEVELD was pleased about so much attention: „This proves that the people of Wathlingen are proud of their project. It is a fascinating offer for all the generations. Such an idea should become reality everywhere. The living together of generations as well as the close link between communal authorities and citizens is an important condition for a social town. This subject is important all over Europe”. C. ZIJDEVELD was especially pleased about the close relationship with the allotment gardeners. He said: “We would like to see a living together as it is lived here everywhere and an allotment movement that is a fixed component of the urban development as it is here”.

Joachim ROEMER



As a souvenir of the visit in Wathlingen mayor Torsten HARMS gives a road sign of the town hosting the 4 generations park to Chris ZIJDEVELD (left) and Walter SCHAFFNER (right)

Behind them you can see from left to right: Udo DOLLA, Rolf RADSCHUN, Monika WILLE, Petra SIEVERT-JÜHNKE, Kerstin BIEDERMANN, Eckhard MEYER und Hans-Jörg KEFEDER, President of the "Landesverband Niedersächsischer Gartenfreunde e.V."



From left to right: President Walter SCHAFFNER, Director Wim HOENTGEN, Mrs. Francis FLOHR, Analyst Ton THUIS, President of the International Office Chris ZIJDEVELD, and Hans-Jörg KEFEDER, President of the LNG.