

Responsible body for urban planning (municipality / county / province)

Municipality of Weyher for development plans
Edenkoben municipality association for land use plan
District "Südliche Weinstraße" Lower Building Supervisory Authority
Structural and Approval Authority South Land Planning
Regional Association Rhine-Neckar Region Regional Planning



2 Kattelbasbrunnen



3 Village community centre (DGH)



4 Way cross "Spring"



5 Michelskappelle



6 Town hall and church



7 Glockenbrunnen

# Planning and Development

"The village Renewal is the motor for the inner development of our villages and the creation of affordable living space in the village centres, especially in the structurally weak rural areas".

Rogerl Lewenz, minister of the interior Rhineland-Palatinate

Our long-term aim is to create an environmentally conscious village in every aspect. We would like to maintain the natural ecosystem, to improve quality living environments and also to reduce the effects of climate change and we plan our development projects with the highest consideration of these goals.

The further development of our village is very important, which is why we have been recognised as a priority community since 2015. In 2017, the community of Weyher updated its village renewal concept from 1986. This is a prerequisite for the state of Rhineland-Palatinate to subsidise private and public village renewal measures. On the one hand, these measures focus on the renewal of older buildings with courtyards and green spaces that characterise the village and its landscape. On the other hand, structural adaptation to today's living and energy standards is also supported.

"Hübühl" and "Rhodter Weg" construction sites well received
23 building plots created in the "Rhodter Weg" development area since 2015
Hardly any houses are empty in the inner village
Construction of a farm building in the village centre including old building fabric (vaulted cellar)
Creation of new apartments in the village centre

The topic of interior development has gained further importance in recent years as a result of demographic change on the one hand and the persistently high land consumption on the other. Therefore, the efforts of village renewal concentrated on the village centres, for example on the conversion of old buildings for living, working and tourism as well as the extension of a basic infrastructure adapted to the village.

## Strengthening the village centre

Our architectural heritage is characterised by local building materials. They have been used either for solid, half-timbered or mixed constructions. Renovations for the purpose of energy saving are in line with traditional construction methods and respect their legacy. Care must be taken that the old building fabric will not be damaged or disappear completely.

Budget for greenspaces	11,00%
cemetery	1,29 %
playground	0,77 %
surrounding countryside care	1,03 %
Special costs in the forestry budget for forest path maintenance and environmental protection, nature and landscape conservation	4,12 %

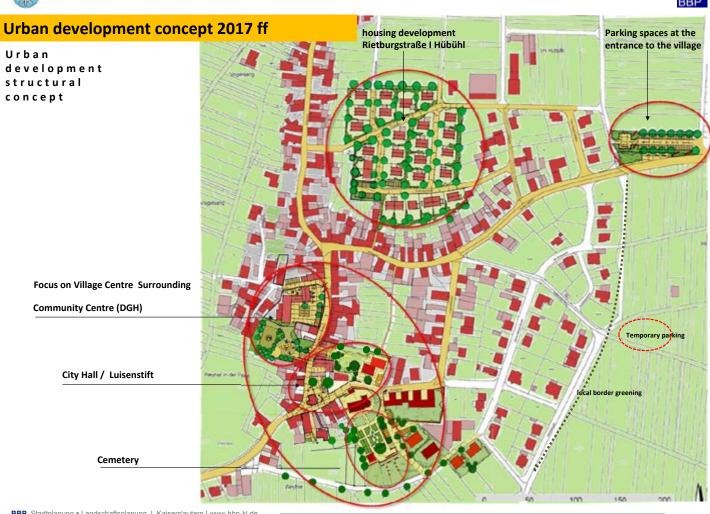






Gemeinde Weyher | Dorfentwicklungskonzept | Fortschreibung 2017 ff | Teil





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## **VILLAGE CENTRE**

The action focus "Ortsmitte" (centre of village) has the goal of functional and creative safeguarding, strengthening and revaluation of the historical town centre. It comprises the sub-areas or tasks:

- Environment City Hall and Luisenstift
- Village community centre (DGH) and surroundings
- Cemetery and surroundings

## HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

The focus of action "Housing development Rietburgstraße" is intended to develop an attractive housing offer for young families, but also innovative and comprehensive solutions for all generations can be created. The scope of this offer is subject to the following principle "Inner development before outer development." During implementation, a special focus is placed on the harmonious integration into the settlement and landscape image.

## **PARKING**

The third focus is on the construction of a parking lot to the east of the village, which is a component of the parking space concept. Another building block of this concept is an area on the eastern edge of the village which is opened as an unsealed temporary car park at heavily frequented festivals.

"Os I could really see with my own eyes, the jury awarded the special prize to weigher quite rightly. Here I can almost smell and taste nature. They not only fulfilled all the criteria set by the jury, but far exceeded them and consequently scored the best points in all areas."

Ulrike Höfken, environment minister Rhineland-Palatinate

Weyher attaches great importance to the protection of its valuable and well maintained environment. It trains the future generation to be environmentally aware and sensitive, and encourages its citizens to do the same. The community has been awarded the Rhineland-Palatinate prize for exemplary ecological performance in the community.

# Conservation and economic use of nature and biological diversity

A life in harmony with nature has always played a significant role in our village. The citizens are aware of the responsibility that emerges from the privileged location at the Palatinate Forest Nature Park and the spectacular view over the Rhine plain.

# **MEASURES TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY**

As part of the continuation of the village renewal concept, the garden area in the centre of Weyher was declared worthy of preservation, so that the "standing" air was to be counteracted by even closer building development.

Parking areas outside the village contribute to the good air quality within the village.

# METHODS TO MAINTAIN SOIL QUALITY

Particularly in viticulture, special attention is paid to the environmentally friendly cultivation of the soil. For this the following is done

- Grazing and care of orchards with sheep and donkeys
- Sowing of green manure in the vineyards
- Protection of the soil by avoiding compaction
- Use of pheromones to control animal pests
- No use of herbicides in viticulture (farm-based)

# **NEAR-NATURAL DEVELOPMENT OF WATER**

- Participation in "Aktion Blau"
  "Aktion Blau" is an action programme of the Ministry
  for the Environment, Energy, Food and Forests of Rhineland-Palatinate which has been successfully promoting
  the restoration of near-natural water conditions.
- Exposure of brook edge strips and meadows in the Meisental valley (2014)
- Preservation of the spring and the elevated tank in the Modenbach valley (2015)
- In the course of the redevelopment of the village road a new construction of a well took place at historical place.
- Use of spring water for feeding the Weyherer Fountains
- Separation of surface and mixed water



#### **WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Waste management is carried out by the local authority and is well organised. The waste is already separated into recyclable materials, bio-waste, paper and residual waste and collected at regular intervals. There are now recycling possibilities for a large number of materials. From 1988 to the present day, the amount of residual waste has been reduced by around 75%. In the city Pirmasens, 50 km away, the residual waste is converted into energy in the waste-fed heating and power plant.

Once a year there is also a mobile hazardous waste disposal. In public areas there is a recycling area for glass and old clothes.

In Edesheim, 5 km away, there is also a recycling centre. Almost all types of recyclables and waste are accepted there. These include, for example, green waste, electrical appliances, aluminium and tinplate, bulky waste, household waste, commercial waste, unpolluted construction waste, untreated wood, carpets and rugs.

#### **ENERGIE MANAGEMENT**

Weyher also focuses on sustainability in its energy supply and has consistently pursued this through a variety of projects in recent years

- Natural gas supply in the entire local area
- Separation of surface water and mixed water in the town centre (2012)
- Conversion of street lighting to LED technology (2014)
- Installation of an energy-efficient heating system (gasfired boiler) in the community centre in 3 apartments with a club hall
- Energetic and environmentally friendly renovation of the apartments / Use of natural building materials
- Photovoltaics on private and commercial properties

# **Further measures are planned**

Night storage heaters in the town hall (village shop) are replaced by a modern gas boiler









# Built Environment

The aim is to preserve, cultivate and harmoniously develop the building heritage. To protect the characteristic townscape as a testimony of history. The successful redevelopment and maintenance of the site is characteristic.

The oldest datable finds indicating settlement in the Weyher district date from the 3rd to 4th centuries after Christ. From this time, when the area belonged to the Roman Empire, the foundations of two farms, so-called "villae rusticae", as well as several graves were found, which suggest further settlements. This long tradition obliges the preservation and care of the cultural monuments.

Among the sights and cultural monuments in the village is the Old Town Hall from 1608, which was rebuilt in the 18th century in baroque style, with a polygonal staircase tower and an arcade hall. Today it houses the municipal administration, a small village shop with bakery, a cash dispenser and a shelter for the bus stop. The "Kattelbas Fountain" was erected on the east facade in 1999 by the Tourist Association, which commemorates the midwife Katharina Lutz (called "Kattelbas") and is thus the only midwife fountain in Germany.

The stately school and community centre dates from the 18th century and was extended at the end of the 1950's and converted into a village community centre in 1988/89. It now offers space for up to 180 people in a separable hall for concerts, theatre performances, exhibitions and family celebrations and is also used by the sports club for gymnastics and table tennis. The listed main building was extensively renovated in 2014. There are three apartments and a conference room for up to 30 people.

The church "St. Peter and Paul" has its origins in the early 15th century and was rebuilt in baroque style in the years 1712-1716 after partial destruction in the War of Succession of 1689. The altars and bells (1733 and 1749), the oldest continuous church bell ringing in the Palatinate, also date from this period.

The churchyard is still used today as a cemetery. The former guard house with an arrest cell is attached to the wall of the cemetery and today the parish library is open to the public. Opposite the church, the "Luisenstift" was built in 1909 in the garden of the late baroque "Frühmeßhaus" as a nurses' house and kindergarten, which today is used as a parish

home, among other things for youth work.

The monument zone in the old village centre includes a well-preserved development from the 16th century with some typical village public buildings and half-timbered houses and numerous archways.

On the northern outskirts of the village there is a 100-yearold sequoia tree, on the south-western outskirts there is the Glockenbrunnen fountain and not far from it the Michaelskapelle chapel, which was built in 1951 to commemorate the victims of the two world wars. Just above the village on the edge of the forest, a Lourdes grotto was built in 1904.

Many baroque wayside shrines and wayside crosses can be found in the district and at the village entrances, including the "White Picture", a baroque Immaculata from 1749 and a baroque figure of the "Good Shepherd" at the vicarage.

In 2012, natural stones were used on the roadside to extend the road and a well was reactivated that had been taken out of service.

- Village-friendly design of squares and streets
- Design of the church forecourt and renovation of the wall (2012+2013)
- New construction and reconstruction of wells: "Kattelbasbrunnen", fountain "Am Kehr"
- Use of natural stones in the village centre
- Redesign of the paths ("Päddel") in the village centre - partly with sandstone slabs
- Design and greening of the old schoolyard
- Planting of trees (cemetery, "Luisenstift",
   "Glockenbrunnen" car park, entrances, bus stop)





# **DEVELOPMENT OF VILLAGESCAPE**

The village development plan specifies the following: Renovation, repair and modernisation in line with the local image. For this there is a preservation - and organization statute, financial promotion over village renewal and technical consultation. The urban development concept from 2017 has three priorities: Housing development, green design of the town centre and parking at the entrance to the town. The harmonious integration of the outskirts of the village into the landscape must be taken into account during settlement development. There are two sites with building land potential, but it was taken into account that the development does not

lead to a burden on the town centre. In the centre of the village there is a dense structure. But already in the 1970s the village was extended in a loosened construction method.

# **RENEWAL OF THE LOCAL THROUGH ROAD**

During the renewal of the main village road, attention was paid to a harmonious street appearance through the use of natural stone paving.









# Landscape

So much of what is said about the region is wonderfully correct: the landscape is reminiscent of Tuscany, the climate allows wonderful wines to thrive, even fig trees bear fruit. The Palatinate Forest is wild and lovely at the same time and contains game, mushrooms and an infinite number of sweet chestnut trees.

Weyher in der Pfalz is a rural community characterised by viticulture. Idyllically situated on the edge of the Haardrand, it offers a spectacular view over the Rhine valley. Many benches and seating areas invite you to linger and enjoy the magnificent land-scape. Vineyards characterise the appearance of the village and in many places are located in the direct vicinity of the residential area. Over the course of the year, the vines with their leaves offer a marvelous play of colours. When approaching the edge of the forest you will find meadows scattered with cherry, apple and pear trees where sheep and donkeys used to graze. The residents of Weyher cultivate the cultural landscape elements of their village in joint activities. In many places, old dry-stone walls made of sandstone were uncovered. They are a biotope for many native and rare animal and plant species. Baroque wayside shrines, way crosses and artist sculptures appear as integral parts of the landscape and blend harmoniously into the overall picture. The consistent greening of the village edges with native wild flowers, shrubs, as well as almond, fruit and deciduous trees supports the seamless integration of the village into the surrounding landscape.









#### **FAUNA**

A special concept for the design of green spaces promotes rare dragonfly species, butterflies, lizards and rare protected bird species.

Especially for Weyher the sweet chestnut (Castanea sativa) forests border directly on the village.

This natural area is very important as a transition between field and coniferous forest:

- Important for nature and species protection, species diversity (biodiversity)
- Important for tourism
- For the forestry budget (focus on forestry work)
- As a general rule: natural silviculture and consideration of many special features in the immediate vicinity of the village (tourism, bird sanctuary, etc.).
- Use (tourism and forestry), preservation, rejuvenation, care and maintenance, and
- Further development and research of the sweet chestnut around Weyher

The whole forest of the community of Weyher is located in the biosphere reserve Pfälzerwald and is included in the forest district Wolfseck. Large parts of the forest are NATU-RA2000 areas and provide habitats for many rare animal and plant species on a European level. The Weyher forest area is part of the European bird sanctuary Haardtrand. Within the context of sustainable and holistic near-natural forest management, special attention is paid to the forest functions of nature conservation, tourism and recreation.

The following nature conservation measures take place in the community forest of Weyher:

- Implementation of the BAT concept for Rhineland-Palatinate state forests; selected areas are no longer cultivated but left to nature.
- Implementation of habitats for the European nightjar; pine forests are specifically cleared for this rare and protected bird species in order to enable flight corridors, breeding sites and living space.
- Clearing of forest and meadow valleys in the Meisental; wet meadows are renatured in order to conserve rare animal and plant species in the long term.
- Establishing of forest refuges









# conservation area

"Haardtrand - Hinkelberg"

WDPA-ID: 163448

(World Database on Protected Areas;)

Area: 26,24 ha Esteblished: 1991



# GREENSPACES

The small village of weyher is surrounded by greenery. Vineyards and meadows extend into the village. In addition, the village maintains green areas and creates recreational areas.

#### **CEMETERIE**

The cemetery is centrally located in the village and is both a meeting place and a park with a beautiful view. The outside area in the southern part of the cemetery was replanted with shrubs and grasses. In the future they will enrich the diversity of species with their flowers. In winter, the aging conifers that were present there had been removed, so that the sandstone walls could once again be used to better advantage and attract reptiles. The Roman stone sarcophagus, which had previously been erected at the village community hall, was moved to the forecourt of the blessing hall and integrated into the complex there. It was found in the 1960s during the land consolidation in the nearby Blenk. In future, a notice board will indicate the suspected Villa Rustica. Two newly planted hornbeams will provide shade. From the end of May to the beginning of June, a lawn urnfield will be planted between the church tower and the northern enclosure wall facing Kirchgasse.

#### PLAYGROUND AND FOOTBALL FIELD

Also in the middle of the village there is a playground with various play equipment and a football field. This is also a meeting place for all generations. Once a year there is also a boule tournament. The facility is located directly at the community centre, so that it can always be used at parties and events. There is also another sports field in the forest.

## **FURTHER GREEN OPEN SPACES**

- Field crosses, wayside shrines and vantage points with seating groups
- Street greenery (plant beds and green areas with native plants)
- Partnership place with the variety of rocks of our vineyard soils
- Paul-Gillet-Plätzel Memory of the honorary citizen of the community









# **URBAN DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT**

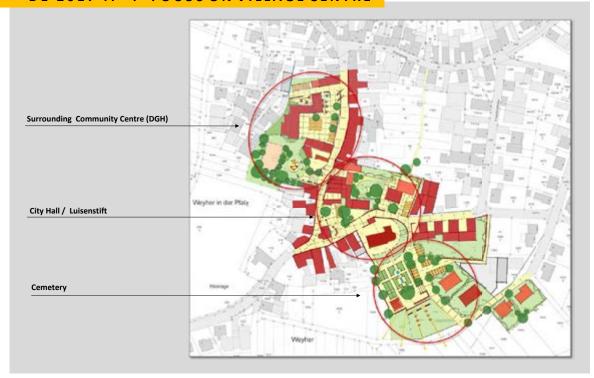
The urban development concept envisages a further expansion of green spaces in the centre of the town. For this purpose, the areas in the community centre, the town hall, the church and the cemetery are to be further developed.



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# DE 2017 ff | FOCUS ON VILLAGE CENTRE



# **PRIVATE GARDENS**

A special feature of the private gardens in Weyher is that they are not visible from the outside. Due to the traditional Palatinate house and courtyard construction method, the plots of land to the streets usually end with large representative courtyard gates. The typical, lovely maintained, farm gardens often extend behind the houses to the edge of the field or forest.



# Planting

Many people dream of a relaxing holiday in nature, what some people forget is that nature is right on their doorstep. We in weyher know that very well. We live between vines and forest and appreciate this.

#### **INNER VILLAGE TREE PLANTING**

In order to preserve the harmonious relationship between the place and its surroundings, an average of 12 native trees are planted each year. In recent years almond trees have been planted along the vineyards. Their flowering in spring attracts many visitors.

#### **ROSES IN THE VINEYARDS**

Flowering roses in the vineyards are a feast for the eyes. The former early warning system for diseases is gaining importance again today in addition to its decorative benefits. The rose serves as an indicator for plant diseases such as mildew. In contrast to the vine, the rose is more susceptible and is attacked by harmful fungi about one to two weeks earlier.

#### PLANTING OF FLOWERING PLANTS IN PUBLIC PLACES

Thanks to a strong volunteer commitment, spaces can be found all over the village that embellish the village image with seasonal plants and bring nature into the village. Highlights are the squares around the way crosses, recreation areas and planting opportunities along the streets. For all these places there are godparents who take care of the planting and upkeep. They are happy to pass on their knowledge to younger people.







#### **DRY-STONE WALLS**

Not only do dry-stone walls serve as hiding places and important survival areas for species that have become rare, such as the sand lizard. Birds can nest in gaps, wasps find their home in cavities and mice appreciate the sheltered, dry interiors. Unfortunately, this fascinating habitat is hardly found anymore.

#### SPECIAL FEATURE ON THE VILLAGE ROAD

During the extension of the village road, a recess for planting was planned at all houses. Private individuals plant roses, vines and seasonal flowering plants in it.







## **VINES AND VITICULTURE**

In addition to the climate, the location and the winegrower's wealth of experience, the soil plays an important role in the winemaking process. At the same time, it is a very vulnerable and limited resource that needs to be protected.

The Upper Rhine Valley was formed over 50 million years ago. In the west the Vosges and the Palatinate Forest and in the east the Black Forest and the Odenwald emerged. Sedimentation and erosion equalized the relief. In the vineyards around Weyher, the geological characteristics are more differentiated and various than anywhere else in the Palatinate. Within a radius of one kilometer there are several different types of rocks that were formed between 235 and 420 million years ago: Limestone marl, red sandstone, rotliegend, granite and slate.



grape varieties

Spätburgunder 9,0% Portugieser 8,3% Dornfelder 8,1% Other varieties 7,4% 67,2%

Riesling 32,7% Müller-Thurgau 7,0% Ruländer 5,6% Silvaner 3,7% Chardonnay 2,9% Scheurebe 2,9% Other varieties 12,4%

# Environmental education

# **PLAYFUL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

For the children in our village we offer a varied program. Through joint activities, the children not only get to know the village and its inhabitants, but also learn how to deal with nature and the landscape in which they live.

The "Clean Landscape Campaign" shows the children how important it is to clear the landscape of rubbish so that the local animals in our region also have a natural habitat. Young and old work together to make the landscape more beautiful again. All generations can learn from each other and support each other. During the forest week our forester shows the children the forest which is responsible for the clean air of our region. Volunteers from the age of 20 enable the children from 4 to 10 years to get together once a week. In the group lesson they introduce the children to social values and environmental awareness in a fun and playful way.

# **LEISURE ACTIVITYS**

Home and environmental solidarity are also reflected in offers such as

- birdcall hikes
- donkey walks
- · Yoga group in the garden







# KINDERGARTEN (CHILDREN GARDENING)

The newest project of our community is the "Kindergarten". In our small village we do not have an educational institution like kindergarten or primary school, but we have a large garden project where mainly children, but also adults meet for gardening. The aim of the project is to introduce children to nature, to impart knowledge and to pass on and preserve the knowledge of the elderly. The plan is to plant useful plants such as tomatoes, cucumbers and courgettes in the garden of the Luisenstift.

Later, the children are to process the grown vegetables and, of course, eat them. A beekeeper was also invited to report on bee-friendly gardening. Also already 3 trees were planted with the help of the children and sponsorships for beds were given.

The idea behind it is to introduce the children to the topic in a playful way and to teach them the responsibility in dealing with our environment.

Our children go to primary school and kindergarten in the neighbouring villages, where they regularly visit farmers, winegrowers and craftsmen as part of their lessons. Twice a year our kindergarten children spend a week in the forest accompanied by a forester.









# Tourism and Leisure





For our holidaymakers 137 guest beds are available in private pensions, in a hotel as well as in holiday homes. Four restaurants and a café offer both hearty cuisine and culinary delights. In the high season in autumn many winegrowers open their farms and offer small Palatinate specialities and new wine. Weyher is known for its tourism and is considered by many regular visitors to be one of the most beautiful villages in the Edenkoben holiday region. The nearby forest offers many well-marked hiking trails and huts for hikers. For example, the "Pfälzer Weinsteig" (Palatinate Wine Trail) hiking trail passes directly on the outskirts of the village. The landscape around Weyher is also perfect for a bicycle tour through the vineyards. At our festivals such as the wine panorama in May, the Kerwe in June or the wine festival in September, guests can experience our warm hospitality. Thanks to the voluntary commitment of many residets, a well-stocked calendar of events has grown that has something to offer for all generations.

#### **TOURISM INITIATIVES**

- Connection to the important hiking trails of the region such as: predicate way "Pfälzer Weinsteig", "Keschdeweg"(chestnuts way) "Madelpfad" (almond path)
- Hiking trail for children "Poussierpädel"
- Culinary vineyard hike "Weyherer Weinpanorama"
- Refuge-hut (Palatinate Forest club) am Johannisbrunnen
- Revitalization "Schweizer Haus" (Forest hut with catering)
- Voluntary helpers in the field of tourism, hiking trails and infrastructure
- Free WLAN ("Freifunk) in village centre

# festivals

May wine festival in vineyards

June village festival

June midsummer's turn

> **July** Beachparty

September wine festival

December Advent market

Overnight stays (average og 2016-2018)

14.159







weyner received the award for its outstanding commitment in the area of "Social commitment and cultural activities". The special commitment to the field of "Connecting Generations - Caring Communities.

Bundesverbands Deutscher Stiftungen

# Special interest groups

Weyher has a large number of honorary helpers. A very active intergenerational association life characterizes the village: fire department promotion association, volunteer fire brigade, tourism association, youth band YBBS, young winemakers, Catholic Library St. Peter and Paul Catholic Women's Community, Senior citizens, church choir "St. Cäcilia", Kolping family, Male choir, Ministrants, local association CDU, Pfälzerwald hiking club, St. Elisabethen Care association, gymnastics and sports association, wine-growing association.

It was the winegrowers who, together with the winegrowers' association, launched many tourism initiatives and significantly increased the level of awareness of the village. The cooperation between the special interest groups is very pronounced, for example after the beach party of the young winemakers, when the sand is brought to the playground in a joint action. In addition, the local council has donated its meeting money in recent years for the maintenance and expansion of the playground.

The outstanding joint achievements in nature conservation have already received numerous awards.

For example, the "Environmental Prize of the State of Rhineland-Palatinate" (2016) or the Gerhard

Postel Prize for "exemplary and diverse commitment to nature conservation, viticulture and species

protection projects" (2019). The result of this careful management of its 80,000m² is evident even to laymen.

Among the vines there are more than 300 different flowering plants, wild bees and wasps, a house martin colony and kestrels.

For example, kestrels have been breeding at the winery's wine press house for decades, a nesting box camera installed in the eyrie is a special attraction, and the rearing of the young falcons can be observed live on screen. Further nesting aids for barn owls, swallows, house redstart and wagtails are used. An empty attic has a free entrance opening for owls and bats and the quarry stone wall at the new wine press house has not been grouted, so that dwarf bats have settled in the open wall joints.

# partner community

Since 1994 there has been an official partnership with the municipality of Weyer in Alsace. Both villages became aware of each other as a result of the balloon competition for the 1200th anniversary of the municipality of Weyher in the Palatinate in May 1977. In 2007, the municipality created a seating area with a memorial stone and orchard meadow in the "Im Blümel" tub and dedicated the square to our Alsatian-Palatinian partnership.





weigher could be very proud of what the village community in weigher has achieved in just a few years.

Theresia Riedmaier, Landrätin



Representatives of the community at the Federal President's ceremony to present the gold medal at the competition "Unser Dorf hat Zukunft" ("Our village has a future")

# **Communication Concept**

In the course of the revision of the communication concept of the village Weyher in 2016, a representative logo, a responsive website, a Facebook page and various brochures were created. In addition to these new media, communication takes place in the classic way via notices, interjections and personal exchange, for example at the weekly market.







www.weyher.de

/weyherinderpfalz