

Konginkangas Village Association

Facts about Konginkangas

Konginkangas is a rural area and a village situated in Central Finland in the Finnish Lakeland. Highway E75 (Finnish National Road 4) from Helsinki to Lapland, and Lake Keitele, 9th largest lake in Finland and part of the great Päijänne water route, are the important life lines of the area.

Konginkangas was an independent municipality from 1895 till 1993. The industrial Äänekoski town was joined by Konginkangas in 1993. There are about 1500 residents living permanently in the whole area of Konginkangas. The central village has about 500 inhabitants. And as there are over 800 holiday houses in the area the number of villagers doubles as the holiday dwellers arrive to Konginkangas in summer.



Konginkangas Village Association

Konginkangas Village Association acts as an advocate and cooperation organizer for the whole region of Konginkangas. The starting point for all the operations of the Konginkangas Village Association is to act as a representative of Konginkangas region, its villages, and people. The association collects local opinions and channels them into activities among local inhabitants. It also shares this information with the policymakers of Äänekoski town.

Konginkangas Village Association was registered in the autumn of the year 2008. The role and purpose of the association was set in the constituent meeting as follows: nourish the cooperation between local inhabitants, encourage self-help among inhabitants, promote viability and vitality of the village, and act as a trustee for the village of Konginkangas and its residents. To achieve these goals, the association should organize a variety of activities and events. The Association should also actively attempt to influence the decision making in various organizations dealing with matters relevant to the inhabitants of the region - participate in the planning and implementation of municipal infrastructure in the area, and make initiatives and proposals for authorities and other parties.

The Board

The board of trustees of the Konginkangas village association consists of thirteen members. They are elected in an open village meeting. There are representatives from each village as well as local entrepreneurs, holiday residents of the area, and SF Caravan Lintulahti, the biggest local actor in tourism.

Initiatives and Activities

Village Plan: As one of its first duties the village association executed a Leader-funded project to discuss and plan the future development of the village and to create a village plan. At the same time the website konginkangas.fi was created. The plan has been updated yearly.

Home Pages www.konginkangas.fi: Created during a Leader project the web pages are visited about 20 000 times each year. There are about 10 villagers from different local organisations who act as updaters of the information. For these Konginkangas Village Association organizes an evening course where also the contents of the pages are discussed together on a yearly base.

Events: The Association has organised four Konginkangas Summer Days and Christmas markets. The Association has also arranged events for cleaning up the village environment and various other local happenings organized by numerous volunteers.

Contacts with the Municipality: The Association cooperates with Äänekoski town and the local development agency. However, the Association is totally independent representing only the inhabitants of Konginkangas. The Association has communicated its statement related to the plans of school network adjustments and road network designs. The Association has also made a plea for the preservation of the local health centre.

Recent Projects: The Association has just run a Leader project where it collected small investment wishes from the villages of Konginkangas, combined them into a proper investment project and took care of the project bureaucracy for the smaller village organisations. With this investment project e.g. a pier got renovated and a barbecue shelter constructed. The Association also purchased e.g. a village information board and a data projector to be used by all organisations in the village.

At the moment the Association participates in a rural development project in Lintulahti area including an investment project run by the town (the idea of the project originates from the association) and it is planning a new investment project of its own. The Association is also active in Vihreä väylä – Green Route project and in the new transnational Innovative Village project, both Leader projects.

Village of the Year: Konginkangas was chosen the Village of the Year 2011 in Central Finland. The active cooperation of the six villages through a common Konginkangas Village Association, the actions towards developing the whole area, and the positive lift of both spirit and publicity lead to the nomination.

Contact in English

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