

Herrn Oberbürgermeister Adolf Sauerland
Burgplatz 1
47051 Duisburg

und

Mitglieder des Rates der Stadt Duisburg

Dear Madam / Sir,

In the course of the planning of a "green belt", several buildings were demolished in Bruckhausen during the past weeks. The demolition of two houses in Dieselstraße is planned during the coming weeks. In Heinrichstraße, well-preserved building structures with historic significance have already been destroyed. Dieselstraße - as THE Bruckhausen attraction if not the main Ruhr region attraction - must remain intact.

We hereby urge you to stop the demolition work immediately.

As an ensemble, Bruckhausen is the last district in the Ruhr region which demonstrates the close juxtaposition of industry and residential buildings so typical for the region in times past. Bruckhausen is a historical landscape worthy of preservation. Even in 2007, the "Rheinisches Amt für Denkmalpflege" [Rhenish Office for the Preservation of Historic Monuments] viewed *"the denseness of historical buildings and their illustrative relation to the factory buildings"* as reason enough to declare the majority of the district of Bruckhausen, including today's entire "redevelopment area", a historic protected area.

Bruckhausen's role as an historic protected area in connection with the green belt planning has never been investigated. Public interest in maintaining a unique Ruhr region setting has not been weighed up against other interests; the preparatory examination only treats individual buildings worthy of monument protection and even here only a part of the historic substance. We view this as a serious oversight.

The plan to demolish Bruckhausen is drawn up at precisely the point in time when the district is enjoying an upturn after several decades. Environmental burdens there have dropped considerably and will continue to fall. For more than 20 years, large amounts of public development funds have flowed into the district and contributed to its gentrification. And last but not least, following the initial difficult years, a Turkish middle class has developed that views Bruckhausen and Germany as its home country; these people are now being robbed of their properties and homes. It is precisely these exemplarily integrated immigrants who have rendered invaluable services to their over 100-year old houses by carrying out often very costly maintenance work on the houses to protect our German cultural heritage.

Today, Bruckhausen has the opportunity to become a completely normal district worth living in. Moreover: as a large share of the houses in the meantime belong to the city, this represents a unique opportunity to implement proper redevelopment and therefore to bestow the city with a unique and living monument.

It is high time to develop a positive vision for the north of Duisburg which supports the emerging development and grasps the opportunities instead of causing the destruction of

our cultural heritage and social structures.

We therefore demand a moratorium for Bruckhausen –the immediate termination of demolition work and the development of a new redevelopment concept which actually considers the protection of monuments.

We are always available to discuss this with you and to provide you with further information.

Geschichtswerkstatt Du-Nord, Katrin Susanne Gems

Susanne Abeck, büro für geschichtskommunikation, Essen

Für die Bürgerbewegung gegen den Häuserabriss in Marxloh: Sylvia Brennemann und Michael Lefknecht

Geschichtswerkstatt Oberhausen

Prof. Dr. Roland Günter, 1. Vorsitzender des deutschen Werkbund e.V.

e.V. N-I-B-B, 1. Vorsitzender Markus Hagedorn

Dr. Thomas Parent, Stellvertretender Direktor des LWL-Industriemuseums

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