Prison siting NIMBY conflicts and acceptability

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Livestream Welcome in my Backyard: from NIMBY to WIMBY
20th April 2021
86 - Vivonne, une prison « moderne mais inhumaine »
Press, 09/02/2011 05:38

Vivonne, a « modern but inhuman prison »
20 km from Poitiers

© F. Gibert Centre pénitentiaire de Poitiers-Vivonne, mardi 18 juin 2013
NIMBY CONFLICTS

« Help them [inmates]? Yes, but not in our back yard »

« I won't sell a single square metre of my land »
De sa propriété à Condé-sur-Sarthe, Christian Guy a pleine vue sur la prison. | Ouest-France 2013 10 01

Christian Guy’s property looks over the prison.

Le hameau des Joncs. L’une des maisons a été rachetée par l’administration pénitentiaire. | Ouest-France 2013 10 01

One of the two houses was purchased by the prison administration (but not the other)
### False arguments for prison siting decisions

#### Longitudinal study of the local medias

Recurrent statements by local officials

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<th>Recurring ideas expressed</th>
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<td>Population growth</td>
<td>“Arrival of new populations” “families” “warders” “workers” “trainers”</td>
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<td>Attractiveness/ creation of new activities / company location / training effects / positive external impacts</td>
<td>“New Activities” “New Jobs” “Business” “Trade” “Private Sector”</td>
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<td>Employment increase</td>
<td>“Economic Development” “unemployment decreasing”</td>
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<td>Public Private Partnership (PPP)</td>
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<td>Taxes</td>
<td>“New infrastructure” “development” “training” “Development” “Opportunities”</td>
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<td>New roads</td>
<td>“Project” “Territory”</td>
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<td>New education and housing infrastructure</td>
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Future prison d'Angers: un arbre de la liberté planté à Trélazé
Angers - 30 Juin 2011 – Ouest France

Le bâtonnier, Alain Fouquet, et le député-maire de Trélazé, Marc Goua, la pelle à la main. | Yves LAUNAY. Ouest France.

Ce jeudi matin, le bâtonnier du barreau d'Angers, Me Alain Fouquet, le député-maire de Trélazé, Marc Goua, et plusieurs représentants d'associations ont symboliquement planté un arbre à Trélazé.
Une action dans le cadre de la journée nationale des prisons et pour marquer la volonté de tous de voir s'installer la nouvelle prison d'Angers à Trélazé.

Future prison in Angers: a “tree for freedom” planted in Trélazé

This Thursday morning, the President of the Bar Association of Angers, Mr Alain Fouquet, the Deputy & Mayor of Trélazé, Marc Goua, and several representatives of different associations symbolically planted a tree in Trélazé.
The initiative was to mark the French national prison day and the hope that the new prison of Angers would be built in Trélazé.
Prison accepted as a real economic opportunity for the township

Prison siting viewed like the arrival of a company with economic positive impacts
Negociation limited
No territorial project

Before the event: false arguments + isolated prison
Limited bribe effect (no compensation claimed)
Nimby effect limited

Before

The prison is a social place
A prison is not a company and doesn’t provide the expected economic opportunities
People feel duped

After

Prison after the event: becomes unacceptable
Territorial projects become impossible because of unresolvable conflicts
Each prison has to be incorporated in a collective territorial project

- Hybridisation as a win-win process
- Educational and awareness-raising work
- Anticipation

Prison

Territorial project

- Local company partnerships and specific local resource combinations
- Economic development, business areas and employment areas
- Social development, links with associations and civil society
- Amenities, mobility, housing projects
- Territorial identity and quality of life
- Communication about the project
The Muret prison to the south of Toulouse, near the aerospace cluster; inmates work for Airbus Industry and validate qualifications.

This is territorial project between the prison, the aerospace cluster and local communities.

« We are far from the image of prisoners that divide their days between walking around the courtyard and waiting for the next day. At the Muret detention centre, the sound of drills and sanders echoes inside the prison 5 days a week, 35 hours a week. In workshops, inmates produce cases for musical instruments, furnitures that will be sold on the internet or spare parts for airplane pressurisation systems. »