

MISSION: CONSTRUCTION AS A SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC

The team of the Technical Service Department works hand in hand and proves its commitment to the implementation of municipal construction projects day by day.

**Joé UGEN: Head of service
with a range of functions**

"There are no construction projects without obstacles and unforeseen events. As technicians it is our job to solve such problems!", declares Joé UGEN.

The statement reflects the expertise of the head of department who's coordinating the 40 team members of the municipality's *Service Technique* while handling local construction projects daily. He's in charge of the "Al Schoul" project in Betzdorf for instance, where 30 intergenerational housing units are currently being created, as well as the "Rouduecht" roundabout in Roodt-Syr, which has been realised in collaboration with the National Roads Administration. Additionally, Joe UGEN is responsible for occupational and building safety. He therefore meets with the mayor and aldermen council regularly to inform them about ongoing projects and, similarly, advises his staff on technical questions as well as answering citizens' inquiries about construction projects. "Good communication with citizens and staff prior to projects is a guarantee for the smoothest possible success in their implementation! That's his motto.

"People tend to underestimate the administrative effort it takes at all levels of a municipal department," says Joé Ugen. "Simply put: Anything that entails costs must be monitored and documented.



This applies to the various phase of construction projects as well as to necessary and often costly maintenance measures regarding occupational and building safety."



Steve WALDBILLIG:
Preparatory work, research and
commitment to new projects

When it comes to new construction projects in the municipality of Betzdorf, Steve WALDBILLIG is the one who initiates the first steps: "This includes preliminary discussions with architects and, if necessary, external consultants. I make sure that the required permits have been granted and take care of any necessary changes or adjustments. Once all this has been sorted out, we will report to the council of aldermen and a call for tenders is opened. During the construction phase, I'm often on site working with architects and project managers. This phase usually lasts two to three years."

The appointed specialist for new development has recently finalised the construction of a social housing project with 21 residential units, which was completed in June. In the meantime, three more houses, which will be made available as social housing, have entered the final construction phase, while a

restaurant-café with two studios and a flat has seen its completion in Olingen. "Since the building is in proximity of the Camino de Santiago and offers a Bed&Bike service, you can spend a few days in this wonderful setting and take advantage of the municipality's attractive and varied cycle paths," points out Steve WALDBILLIG.

Another project he likes thinking back to is the renovation of the old barn in Betzdorf three years ago. A well was discovered during excavations which is now listed as a national heritage site by "Sites et Monuments". The *Place Grand-Duc Jean*, a meeting place for citizens, was created under the direction of Joé UGEN and was inaugurated by the former Duke's son, Grand Duke Henri. The initiatives "Liewensufank" and "Trisomie21" have taken up residence there and the square also houses a large meeting room for local festivities.

**Water, roads and green
spaces come together at the
hands of Daniel MILBERT**

Daniel MILBERT's three areas of responsibility are water management, roadworks and the maintenance of local green spaces. "As far as water management is concerned, I take care of all associated administrative tasks. I ensure, among other things, that the current Drinking Water Act is strictly applied in coordination with the Water Management Authority and respond to emergencies in civil engineering, such as the repair of underground water pipes, and any associated road closures. Managing the municipality's seven water basins and three springs is also part of my remit. This job is subject to various legal requirements and is constantly being monitored by the authorities through analyses and audits," explains Daniel MILBERT. Additionally, a sophisticated control system is in place to ensure that the municipality doesn't exceed the "capacité réservée" for drinking water, as

this would result in a fine. Daniel MILBERT is particularly proud that the municipality received the "Drèpsi" award for good water management this year.

Regarding roadworks, Daniel MILBERT is responsible for maintaining cycle and hiking paths, drainage ditches, and playgrounds. He works closely with the municipal forestry team and the CIGR employment initiative. The management of green spaces, which the municipal employee is also in charge of, encompasses "strategic" (i.e. ecologically sensitive) grass mowing, which is being implemented in cooperation with the biological station SIAS, as well as the maintenance of the four municipal cemeteries, including the digging of graves. "Moreover, it is one of my duties always to look ahead: what needs to be arranged, what needs to be replaced, what funds may need to be requested from the council of aldermen...", explains Daniel MILBERT.



Michael VOGEL ensures safety

Michael VOGEL began his career at the municipality of Betzdorf as a foreman in the *Equipe Bâtiments* (Buildings Department) and took on an administrative role a few years ago. Today he is responsible for the team of the *Equipe Bâtiments*. My responsibilities include managing working hours, overseeing leave days, and implementing the agreements outlined in the collective contract for around 40 people," explains Michael VOGEL. "In addition, there is the upkeep and maintenance of municipal buildings, the implementation of security measures with external providers."



Andreia MENDES: Community outreach and correspondence

Andreia MENDES supports the environmental team, as well as the technical service department, by handling administrative matters. She responds to citizens' telephone inquiries, handles written correspondence, revises municipal documents and liaises with the stakeholders for various projects (architectural and engineering offices, notaries, etc.). "I particularly enjoy the exchange with citizens and the diversity of my work," says Andreia MENDES, who has been working for the municipality of Betzdorf since 2013.

New member with growing expertise: Yves STOCKLAUSEN

Yves STOCKLAUSEN, who joined the technical service in February this year, was initially assigned to support Michael VOGEL and has since taken over some of his tasks. He is now responsible for coordinating the rental of the town's banqueting halls, managing equipment, helping to implement security measures and working with other town staff to prepare for town events. I really enjoy my job and can only describe the cooperation with all my colleagues as excellent," says Yves STOCKLAUSEN.

