

Legitimacy in the village councils of the municipality of Enschede

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Abstract

This bachelor thesis concerns research on the legitimacy of village councils in the municipality of Enschede. The main research question that is examined throughout the paper is: 'How do the current representatives of the municipality and the village council members from the villages that are part of the municipality of Enschede view the effect that voting for village council has on the legitimacy of those village councils?'. Included are the independent variable, which is the method of finding new village council members and the dependent variable, which is the legitimacy of the village councils. The research design that is utilized is a comparative case study with each of the villages that are included being a separate case that is analysed. Moreover, the research method that is used is qualitative research through interviews with key figures in the municipality and villages. The purpose of this paper is for the municipality of Enschede to have insight in the current situation in the villages and perhaps adjust their policy. At the end the conclusion is made that there is no difference in legitimacy between an elected and non-elected village council. The main reason being that each of the villages have the same legal status that offer them the same competences regardless of the council being elected.

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Introduction

The municipality of Enschede, located in the eastern part of the Netherlands along the border with Germany, is for the most part covered by the city of Enschede. However, aside from the big city there are four villages that are also part of the municipality and are part of their jurisdiction. These four villages are Lonneker, Glanerbrug, Boekelo and Usselo, they are located on various sides around the city of Enschede. Within the municipality of Enschede each of the city districts in Enschede has their own city district council, this means that the four villages also have their own village council. The main purpose these city district councils have is to give inhabitants of these areas a voice when it comes to matters that they are concerned with. These city district councils are situated below the larger municipal council that deals with the entire municipality overall and fulfil a supportive role. The members of these city district councils do their job on a voluntary basis and therefore most of the councils are non-elected organisations that represent an area of the city of Enschede. The same can be said for most of the village councils; Lonneker and Glanerbrug have a non-elected village council and Usselo has a non-elected *Buurtkring* or neighbourhood circle. Boekelo on the other hand, is an exception. In Boekelo the village council is an elected organisation where the members have to candidate themselves and receive enough votes from the inhabitants to become a member. This poses a difference with an interesting question on whether or not this difference in being an elected or a non-elected council has an effect on the legitimacy of the village councils. Therefore this thesis aims to answer the following research question:

‘How do the current representatives of the municipality and the village council members from the villages that are part of the municipality of Enschede view the effect that voting for village council has on the legitimacy of those village councils?’

This research question is a standard explanatory research question of a rather large stature that therefore requires a sub-question that helps with answering the aspect of legitimacy, this sub-question will be: ‘Do the notions of internal, external, input and output legitimacy affect the view of the current municipality representatives and village council members?’. Furthermore, because of the research question being the standard explanatory research question, the variables that are included in this research are very clearly distinguished. The independent variable is the method of finding new village council members and the dependent variable that is used, is the legitimacy of the village councils. Being able to elect a village council can have either an increasing or decreasing effect on the support for a village council, which also includes the legitimacy.

There are several aspect that make this research topic and its research question relevant. First of all and perhaps most importantly is that the municipality of Enschede could benefit from the findings of this research. Once this research has been concluded the municipality of Enschede is able to see where the strengths and possible weaknesses lie of the current system and based on this they may decide to change their policy regarding the village councils. Additionally, the image that is presented of the current situation in the villages of the municipality of Enschede could also benefit other municipalities with a similar structure. These could be other municipalities in the Netherlands or even international ones, as long as they deal with that same structure of a municipality that entails one large city and several smaller villages. Another aspect that makes this research relevant is that, as stated by A. Solijonov (2016), the current trend around the world shows that voter turnout is decreasing i.e., people have less faith in politics. People do not automatically accept a new government as legitimate and with lower turnout rates the government’s claim of legitimacy may be at risk. The answers of this research could contribute to this legitimacy question so that it can be found out whether or not elections make a difference. Moreover, according to Moravcsik (2002) many politicians, scholarly commentators and members of the European public argue that the European Union suffers from a democratic deficit. Meaning that an organisation has a lack of

democracy when it comes to any of their actions and decisions, the process behind the policy that is implemented has not been a particularly democratic process. With this research the theories on democratic legitimacy can be tested on a smaller scale, the village councils provide a situation that is specific to the local level and this research can test whether or not a democratic deficit exists even on this scale.

The aim with this research is to fill the current knowledge gap regarding the information about the legitimacy in village councils. Furthermore, this research will benefit the municipality of Enschede and give them a clear insight in the current situation and, as stated before, it will allow them to possibly make new policy concerning the village councils.

Theoretical Framework

In this chapter the theoretical framework for the thesis is laid down and explained. The research that is done with the thesis, is about the concept of legitimacy and specifically legitimacy in the village councils of the municipality Enschede. To substantiate any claims regarding the concept of legitimacy in the village councils this concept first needs to be explained and its facets have to be clearly analysed and defined. Furthermore the concept of democratic deficit, which is an aspect closely related to legitimacy, is elaborated in this chapter of the thesis. To provide a theoretical framework the existing theories about legitimacy are analysed and several aspects are mentioned on their own. The focus will primarily be on the aspects of input and output legitimacy as well as internal and external legitimacy. Besides the concept of legitimacy, there will also be a part that elaborates on the villages in the municipality of Enschede that briefly explains their history and the respective village councils. At the end of this chapter, after all the theoretical concepts have been explained, the hypotheses that come from this research are defined.

Legitimacy

Beetham (1991) states that the concept of legitimacy is something that has multiple dimensions and is not just a singular concept. The clear understanding of legitimacy is a key component to writing this thesis and because of its relevance towards the main research question this article has been selected. He argues that legitimacy can only exist from three different elements, first: it conforms the established rules that are set, secondly: the set rules are justifiable in the sense that both the authorities and the civilians or subordinates have accepted these rules and the last element of legitimacy according to Beetham is that there is consent given by the subordinates to the power relation they have with the authorities. To shorten this, the first element deals with rules, the second with justifications and the third with the actions and as stated before they are not alternatives for one and another, the three elements collectively contribute to the legitimacy of a certain governmental institution. The article continues to elaborate on these elements of legitimacy and explains to what extent they are important to the whole concept of legitimacy. The first element is according to Beetham (1991) a somewhat basic level of legitimacy in the sense that rules are rules and if these rules are not followed, legal actions against perpetrators can be undertaken. The second element of legitimacy is already a bit more complex as it states that for a governmental institution having only legal validity is not sufficient to secure that the rules are completely legitimate. Therefore the rules need to be justifiable by both authorities and their subordinates, which depends on the beliefs that, at the time of developing the rules, are the norm in the given society. The third element of legitimacy is according to Beetham (1991) the most complex level because it involves the fact that not everyone within a certain society may agree with the established set of rules. The author states that for people to make the actions by the government legitimate, they have to take action and actively participate with their democratic rights of for example voting. Being able to vote is viewed as an instrumental part of creating a legitimate environment and therefore it is hypothesized that when an inhabitant of a village is able to vote for the village council, the decisions made by the village council are viewed to be more legitimate.

Input and output legitimacy

Another article that deals with the concept of legitimacy is the article by Scharpf (1998), which deals with democratic legitimation. In this article, Scharpf argues that democratic legitimacy comes from two forms of legitimacy: Input and output legitimacy. This distinction in legitimacy is an important factor of measuring legitimacy, because of the difference in the outcome when either of them is measured. This supports the decision of the author to take these factors into account in the research question of this thesis. Input legitimacy is the responsiveness shown by governmental institutions when citizens' concerns are addressed through their own participation. In other words, the citizens come forward with an issue that they would like to be resolved and through the actions by citizens the issue is put on the political agenda by the various governmental institutions. Scharpf (1998) calls the concept of input legitimacy in other words 'government by the people' or even self-government. The explanation that Scharpf (1998) gives for input legitimacy, is that the decisions that are to be made in policy should come from the initiative taken by the citizens. This part of his theory is linked with the input citizens have and through the act of voting for a village council or applying to become a member of the village council have the opportunity to actively bring their own ideas in to the policy making process, it is also hypothesized that being able to offer ideas increases the legitimacy since the ideas come directly from the inhabitants themselves. The second form, which is output legitimacy, is the amount in which the policy outcomes designed by the government have an actual effect on the daily lives of the citizens. In a way this has a reflective nature since the output legitimacy can only be measured after a certain policy has been implemented and active for a while. The concept of output legitimacy is by the author also stated to be 'government for the people' because it implies that the decisions made in policy should reflect the common interest by the citizens. The article continues to argue that even though input and output legitimacy are important, government should not fully rely on either of them. Scharpf (1998) argues that when a government makes its decision based only on input by the citizens, the result will be that the government becomes almost obsolete since society will function like a direct democracy.

Internal and external legitimacy

A third article (Drori and Honig, 2013) focuses on a completely different aspect of legitimacy, rather than input and output legitimacy or the concept legitimacy on its own, this article focuses on the difference between internal and external legitimacy. For the reason that this article offers another dimension to the concept of legitimacy and due to the author wanting to have as much definitions of legitimacy as possible it becomes a relevant aspect of the research question as it deepens the notion of legitimacy. According to Drori and Honig (2013), internal legitimacy is 'the acceptance or normative validation of an organizational strategy through the consensus of its participants, which acts as a tool that reinforces organizational practices and mobilizes organizational members around a common ethical, strategic or ideological vision'. In other words this means that the decisions made by an organization are found legitimate by the members of this organization. The concept of external legitimacy is more or less the opposite of internal legitimacy, instead of the legitimacy for certain policies made by an organization coming from the members of that organization, external legitimacy focuses on the policy from an organization being legitimate because people outside the organization value it that way. The authors of this article argue that external legitimacy is considered to be a lengthy process, since the external partners that are not part of the particular organization have to scrutinize the decision made by the people that are a part of the organization. The author of this bachelor thesis considers internal legitimacy to be sufficient when the members of the village councils are satisfied with the decision making process and the outcome. Likewise, this is true for external legitimacy that argues that people from outside the village council, which in this case are the representatives of the municipality of Enschede, are in compliance with the decision making process and its outcome.

Democratic deficit

The concept of a democratic deficit is closely related to legitimacy and it is especially associated with the EU (European Union). Within the EU, both political actors and regular citizens claim that the EU suffers from this so-called democratic deficit. Whilst others like Moravcsik (2002) and Majone (1998) try to refute the idea of the EU having a democratic deficit, or at least depict it to be less prevalent. For this research, it will be examined whether or not the concept of having a democratic deficit is also applicable to a smaller form of government, in this case the village councils of the municipality of Enschede. To be able to give any clear statements about this, first the concept of democratic deficit has to be defined. The first time the word 'democratic deficit' was used by anyone, is argued to be by Corbett (1977) whilst writing the manifesto for the Young European Federalists. In this manifesto he argues, that democratic deficit means that the nation-state seems to be altering in a way that makes them become less connected to the ordinary citizen. Corbett (1977) says that because of this, the chance that the state makes decisions without first consulting the citizens for any potential local effects increases. Essentially the concept of a democratic deficit means that the decisions made by the government do not have enough democratic legitimacy and support by the people. As stated before, most of the literature about the concept of a democratic deficit has a primary focus on the situation in the EU. However, the literature does still provide a general understanding of what the concept of a democratic deficit means. In the context of the village councils, having a democratic deficit could imply that the procedure for selecting a village council is not democratic enough. It is also possible that the decisions made by the village councils are not supported enough by the people that live inside the villages. Because of this difference in the selection procedure for members of the village councils, the hypothesis regarding the democratic deficit is that if a democratic deficit exists in the village councils there is a democratic deficit in the village councils that are not elected

Hypotheses

Overall it can be stated that the articles about input and output legitimacy as well as the ones about internal and external legitimacy are primarily used to understand these multiple facets of legitimacy. As mentioned earlier in the chapter, Scharpf (1998) offers an insight in the aspect of input and output legitimacy whilst Drori and Honig (2013) give an understanding of internal and external legitimacy. These articles do not particularly offer anything substantial leading up to a hypothesis for this research, therefore these are not developed through the use of these articles. However, in the literature provided by Beetham (1991) the overall concept of legitimacy is explained and it offers the key understanding to what legitimacy actually is. Since the main research question is about legitimacy of the village councils in the municipality of Enschede, the hypothesis is based on the pure concept of legitimacy as well. Beetham's statements about legitimacy help to give a clear understanding of the concept, hence the following hypothesis:

Because an elected village council is democratically chosen, this council is more legitimate than the village councils that are organised through co-optation.

As Beetham (1991) states, being able to vote is an instrumental part of creating an environment that has legitimacy. With this statement it can be concluded that according to Beetham having an election is essentially a must for any governmental organisation to call themselves legitimate.

Methodology and Research Design

In this chapter the methodology and research design for the thesis is explained. Overall, the main research design for this paper is a comparative case study on village councils in the municipality of Enschede. Each of the village councils functions as one of the separate cases that are analysed and compared with one and another. Throughout this chapter the steps that were taken towards the process of the analysis are explained so that if desired, this research can be replicated.

Research design and Operationalization

Selection of cases

For this research it was decided to have interviews with several people that work and/or live inside the municipality of Enschede. This means that they live/work either in the city of Enschede or in one of the four villages that are also a part of the municipality. The reason for this major selection criterion is that the respondents should live or work in the municipality to be truly able to give their opinion on the case of legitimacy in the village councils. Someone that is not affiliated with the municipality of Enschede in any particular form, is not able to give as good of a judgement on the matter as someone who is. The approach of doing interviews with some representatives of the municipality and the village council members of the respective villages, was chosen because the time frame for writing this bachelor thesis does not allow a large scale quantitative research. This does lead to the threat of this research having a small sample size and therefore resulting in the findings not being representative. However, a sample of the inhabitants would actually not be representative for the villages as a whole, the scope of inhabitants is too large for this. Unless more extensive research amongst all inhabitants is performed, it is not possible to get a representative view from the inhabitants. The argument for this is that the answers that would be obtained through a sample of the inhabitants are not generalizable for the entire population of the villages. Additionally, More extensive research amongst the inhabitants of the villages would essentially require the usage of questionnaires which take quite some time to be filled out and processed afterwards. The issue of time, as stated before, does not allow the option of extensive research for this bachelor thesis. The focus on the representatives of both the municipality as well as the villages is therefore a more balanced choice since they occupy a central role in their respective organisations. They offer an opinion that is relatively representative for the entire village since they ultimately decide over what happens inside the village. Due to discoveries that were made later on during the research it was decided not to include the fourth village of the municipality of Enschede, Usselo. The main reason for this, is that this village is substantially smaller compared to the other villages in the municipality of Enschede with only about 300 inhabitants. This difference in size already makes the case of Usselo less comparable to the other villages within the municipality that, as stated before, all have more than 3000 inhabitants. Another aspect that was taken into consideration is that currently the village of Usselo does not particularly have an official village council, instead they have an organisation that is called 'Buurtkring Usselo'. This 'Buurtkring', according to Stadsdeel West of the municipality of Enschede (2018), does have the same legal status as any of the other village and district councils of the municipality of Enschede. This means that they are the official consultation partner regarding any issues where the municipality of Enschede has to make certain decisions that involves the village of Usselo. However, because of their small size, most decisions are made in conjunction with the village council of Boekelo since both villages lie right next to another they share many of the problems with one and another as well. For this research, considering the difference between the other village councils and the 'Buurtkring Usselo', it is argued that the case of Usselo is not comparable to the other villages. Therefore, as stated before, it is currently not included into this research design and will not be added into the analysis section of the thesis.

Selection of respondents

To prevent bias and unrepresentativeness as much as possible, the people that are selected as a respondent are the aldermen and the village council chairs. The people in these positions have arguably the most central role within the governmental structure surrounding the village councils. The aldermen are the preferred respondents because they are responsible for the proceedings surrounding decision-making in the stadsdelen west, north and east. The village council chairs are the preferred respondents because they possess the most central role within the village council and they have the most interaction with the municipality. However, due to communication issues with the aldermen it was opted to have interviews with the *stadsdeel-managers* as representatives of the municipality instead. The *stadsdeel-managers* are at the head of the civil servants department regarding the three respective city districts west, north and east. They are also an important factor when it comes to the communication between the villages and the municipality, perhaps even more so than the aldermen. The *stadsdeel-managers* have a somewhat closer and more direct link to the village council, primarily due to them being responsible for only one city district. The aldermen may have the responsibility over one city district as well, but in the end they also have to make sure the other parts of the city are sufficiently represented. Moreover, they are in a way one level further away from the general audience than the *stadsdeel-managers*. Ultimately these *stadsdeel-managers* have responded to the request at being a respondent for this research and they agreed to an appointment. The village council chairs of Lonneker and Glanerbrug were responsive to the request at being a respondent and the appointments were made. Once again, they offer a central role within the village councils themselves and are assumed to be knowledgeable about all the issues and aspects that the village council has to deal with. From Boekelo the village council chair did not reply to the request and instead it was opted to have an interview with a current member of the village council. This member has been selected because in the past they have also been the chair of the village council of Boekelo so they could still answer the interview questions from the perspective of the chair. With all the respondents collected, the interviews could be done and the data received from the interviews can be used for the analysis.

The interviews

The interviews are semi structured, this means that beforehand a list of question was developed that aim to obtain answers to the four forms of legitimacy and to what extent they are experienced in the villages and their councils. Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 show that for these interviews, the questions for a *stadsdeel-manager* were different from the questions for a village council chair/member. The *stadsdeel-managers* were given questions that focused more on the situation in the villages from an external perspective. Since they are not a directly part of the village council and instead represent the larger overall governmental institution, which is the municipality of Enschede, they are externally involved with the village council. This also mean that they have an external view on the matter of legitimacy. The village council chairs/members received questions that analysed the situation inside the village from an internal point of view. Naturally, the members of the village councils are the people inside and ultimately they are the ones affected by the outcome of the research question about legitimacy in village councils.

Almost all the interviews were taken in the month of June of 2018, with the exception of the first interview that was recorded on the 28th of May 2018. From these interviews almost all of them lasted about twenty minutes with again one exception of an interview that took 45 minutes. This interview took somewhat longer because of extensively elaborated examples during the discussion. To record the interviews a recording application on a mobile cell-phone was utilized. The recorded audio-files were later on replayed so that the interviews could be fully transcribed as preparation for the analysis of the research and subsequently the answering of the main hypothesis and the research question.

Findings

Before the analysis will be presented, there will first be a general overview of the main findings that were received from the interviews. These findings will predominantly consist of answers regarding the concept of legitimacy but also additional themes that were discussed during the conversation with the respondents.

As mentioned earlier, in total six interviews were recorded for the research, three of these interviews were done with village council members of the three selected villages of Lonneker, Glanerbrug and Boekelo. The members of the village councils are all retired senior citizens that have worked in their respective jobs and now that they have more time, they part-take in the local politics within their village. Another factor that made them join the village council is that they are heavily interested and involved with what is going on inside their community. The other three interviews that are included in this research, were recorded with the *stadsdeel-managers* of the three city districts that each have one of the respective villages inside their area. The *stadsdeel-managers* are of course affiliated with the municipality of Enschede since this is the institution they work for. They have contact with both the municipal council as well as the bench of mayor and aldermen on a very regular basis. This means that the *stadsdeel-managers* have the direct links with all the main administrative institutions within the municipality. Moreover, the *stadsdeel-managers* are also regularly in contact with the respective village councils as well as the councils of the other city areas inside the city-district.

Throughout all the interviews the main theme was, once again, legitimacy since that is what the main research question: 'How do the current representatives of the municipality and the village council members from the villages that are part of the municipality of Enschede view the effect that voting for village council has on the legitimacy of those village councils?' is essentially about. Other themes that were discussed were some of the personal experiences from the respondents regarding for example the communication with citizens or any issues that they have experienced in the course of their work. All six of the respondents were willing and able to answer all the questions that were posed so the information that was necessary for this research was obtained. Since the interviews were held in a semi-structured approach the respondents were, next to answering all the main questions, encouraged to give examples or bring up topics or suggestions of their own. One example of such a suggestion was given by one of the *stadsdeel-managers* that proposed to do further research in the output of the village councils. In the interview the *stadsdeel-manager Noord* said:

'Wat je nog zou kunnen doen is je verdiepen in wat zijn nou de belangrijke onderwerpen die in de verschillende dorpsraden, bijvoorbeeld in 2017, aan de orde zijn geweest. Welke adviezen hebben ze daarover gebracht en waar hebben die adviezen toe geleid. Want dan kun je zien of die legitimiteit ook echt tot uiting komt en een bijdrage levert aan de ontwikkeling van een dorp. Want de vragen die je nu gesteld hebt gaan heel erg over de structuur, samenstelling en de activiteiten die ze doen maar uiteindelijk gaat het om de kwaliteit van de adviezen die ze geven en of daar wat mee gebeurt. Want volgens mij als jij daar écht een uitspraak over wilt doen, moet je daar onderzoek naar doen en daar iets van vinden. (..) Dat zou je dan kunnen doen door bij de dorpsraden op te vragen van welke adviezen hebben jullie gegeven en dan ook te vragen waar heeft het dan toe geleid. In welke zin heeft het bij gedragen aan de besluitvorming van of de gemeente raad en het college of de ambtelijke keuzes die gemaakt zijn om in het dorp bepaalde ontwikkelingen tot stand te brengen. Niet alles hoeft altijd via een raad of college te gaan, er kan ook een onderwerp aan de orde komen over de verkeersveiligheid en of er een bepaalde situatie opgelost kan worden en dan heb ik collega's van verkeer die dat oplossen. Ook daar kunnen zij een advies over geven dan wordt het zo ambtelijk opgelost, dat is dan net zo legitiem als wanneer het een politiek onderwerp is. Als je die dingen op een rij hebt zou je kunnen zien of er een verschil is tussen de dorpen maar dan moet je daar natuurlijk wel voldoende tijd voor hebben binnen de gestelde limieten op het inleveren.'

With this idea, it is suggested to do a review of all the advices and policies that have been developed by the village councils during the last governing period. The *stadsdeel-manager* gives this suggestion because according to him, it would provide a more complete view on the legitimacy and especially the output legitimacy of the village councils. In the conclusion chapter of this thesis, in particular in the section dedicated to suggestions for further research, the idea is elaborated on to a somewhat greater extent. Moreover, in the section with the limitations for this research it is explained why this idea has not been implemented further in this thesis.

Another thought-provoking suggestion regarding new ideas about the method of selecting members for a village council, was made by the *stadsdeel-manager West*. At the end of the interview, rather than coming up with a question that he would have asked if he was in the position of the researcher, he proposed an idea that is somewhat different from the current method of selecting members. The main point in his idea being the suggestion that the system could change from a completely elected village council to a council that is elected for one half and the other half is selected through the drawing of lots. In the interview he said:

‘Wat de laatste tijd überhaupt een flinke discussie is geweest is de legitimiteit van de gekozen vertegenwoordiger en wat je ziet is dat er een schrijver is die terug gaat naar de Griekse oudheid waarin de volksvertegenwoordiging bestond die voor een deel geloot was en een deel gekozen was, dus als het gaat om legitimiteit en dat is misschien meer een uitspraak dan een vraag denk ik dat een soort hybride vorm waarin enerzijds mensen in een raad of bestuur kunnen komen doordat ze door verkiezingen naar voren wordt geschoven omdat zijn of haar achterban dat wil en anderzijds mensen in een bestuur of raad kunnen komen via een soort loting zoals de jury’s in Amerikaanse rechtbanken worden opgesteld. Dat is een eerlijkere afspiegeling van de samenleving want als de opkomst tijdens verkiezingen 50% is dan, hoewel dat nog steeds een goeie afspiegeling kan zijn van de gehele populatie, zijn er nog mensen die zich niet vertegenwoordigd voelen en door loting zou dat kunnen werken, de gemeente Groningen is met een experiment bezig waarin loting vanuit de wijk en verkiezingen voor de gemeente raad samen de wijkraad vormen. Dat is een experiment om het draagvlak te vergroten.’

What he wants, or seeks, to accomplish with this suggestion, is that when the election for any sort of council only has a turnout of 50% it is still not completely representative for the entire population. When half of all the members in a village council are selected through the outcome of the votes cast by citizens and the other half through random selection it becomes fairer. Even though turnout of 50% may still be a good representation of the entire population, with half of all the members being randomly selected the possibility of people not being represented is sort of taken away. He added that a similar idea to this, is currently in an experimental phase in the Dutch city of Groningen. Here the municipality uses this method to select the members in each of the separate city-district councils. The approach they take is half of members in this city-district councils consist of the elected people that also have a seat in the larger municipal council. The other half of the members in the city-district council consist of people from these city-districts that were selected through a randomized process. As stated before, this minimizes the possibility that people do not feel represented in a city-district council because ultimately half of the members were chosen purely on the basis of drawing lots.

An additional finding that was also presented by the *stadsdeel-manager West*, is quite interesting when it comes to potential issues regarding the support for village councils amongst the inhabitants of the villages. The *stadsdeel-manager* stated that, overall, he thinks the villages are supported on a good level by the inhabitants. He only had one relatively small issue that focuses on the structure of the village councils. Predominantly about the roles the members of the village council have both inside the councils as well as inside the community of the village. This issue was raised when the *stadsdeel-manager* was asked if he had any suggestions for the village councils to improve their legitimacy and/or support. In his answer to this question he stated:

‘(..) als ik kijk naar hoe Boekelo het doet, dan manifesteren die zichzelf in het dorp gewoon heel krachtig, ze hebben hun eigen dorpsblad waar de dorpsraad in publiceert waar het over gaat of is gegaan tijdens de vergaderingen, het verslag staat erin en de commissies komen ook aan het woord. Dit blad wordt huis aan huis verspreid en heel vaak als er evenementen zijn dan zijn er ook commissies bij betrokken dus waar je ook komt de dorpsraad is altijd aanwezig en er zijn ook heel veel leden van de dorpsraad met dubbelfuncties, de een is actief lid van BSC Unison en zit in de dorpsraad, de ander is actief lid in de parochie en lid van de dorpsraad, enzovoort. Dat maakt het dorp toch wel goed verbonden met elkaar dus voor Boekelo zou ik geen adviezen hebben. Misschien dat het heel soms voor kan komen dat het, en ik moet zeggen ik heb hier geen ervaring mee of voorbeelden van, voor mensen lastig kan zijn of ze nu praten met de voorzitter van de voetbalclub of met het lid van de dorpsraad. Dus dat het soms lastig kan zijn welk petje iemand op heeft maar ik denk dat het in Boekelo dan ook heel normaal is omdat dan gewoon te vragen van ‘wat wil je nou eigenlijk?’

This essentially states that in a rather close community like a village, it is very often the case that the inhabitants have double-functions. This means that it sometimes could be the case that it is unclear from which perspective someone in the village council is acting. Although he does state that this has not happened to him before and that he does not have any experience with something like it. He also assumes that whenever it may be unclear what the intention is with a certain action from one of the village council members, people will plainly ask what they mean and want.

Some more general findings from the interviews were for example that the members in the village councils are for the vast majority male. The interviewed village council members stated that there are many women that currently have a position in the village council. Especially the members of the non-elected councils in Lonneker and Glanerbrug stated that they find this rather unfortunate. They argued that because of the lack of women in the council, the advice that is given or the decisions that are made, make the council less representative. They stated that ultimately, having a rather male dominated council leads to having little to no representation for half of the population inside of the village. And this is assumed to be an important thing, as stated in the following statement by the village council member of Lonneker during the interview:

‘(..) graag willen we nog wel een paar vrouwelijke leden erbij hebben want het moet niet zo’n oude mannen clubje worden. Dus daar zijn we nog wel mee bezig, het gaat niet om het aantal maar het mooiste is een soort van dwarsdoorsnede van het dorp, dat het representatief is.’

In Boekelo this question about having enough male-female representation is from a certain point of view less prevalent. The members are selected through an election in which eventually the citizens have to vote for who they want in their village council. However, on the voting ballot it is made sure that there are a substantial amount of women available to be elected in the eventual council.

Analysis

Now that the data for this research has been collected and some of the findings from the interviews have been presented, this chapter will show the analysis of this data. This will offer an answer to the research question 'How do the current representatives of the municipality and the village council members from the villages that are part of the municipality of Enschede view the effect that voting for village council has on the legitimacy of those village councils?' may be found. This chapter will be systematically organised into sub-sections that discuss the situation regarding the dimensions of legitimacy as discussed in the theoretical framework section. For each of the three villages it will be mentioned to what extent the legitimacy is present in the village and how both the village council members and the municipality of Enschede view this legitimacy question.

Input legitimacy

As previously discussed in the theoretical framework the input legitimacy is about the responsiveness of government towards citizens' concerns (Scharpf, 1998). This essentially means that whenever a policy decision has to be made, the government listens to what the citizens think about it and they base their policy on the citizens' input. From the interviews came an overall consensus from all three of the villages that according to the members the input legitimacy is of a good level. To the question about communication and involvement with inhabitants, the village council chair of Glanerbrug for example said:

'Wij houden een aantal openbare vergaderingen, elke maandag zit de hele dorpsraad hier en kan iedereen binnen lopen, de woningcorporaties, de wijkagenten, al dat soort organisaties zitten dan ook hier dus die kunnen dan communiceren wat er hier besproken wordt. Daarnaast brengen wij elke 14 dagen ons wijkblad uit 'Grenzeloos', die verschijnt 23 keer per jaar en daar staat in wat wij zoals besproken hebben, alle informatie voor het dorp en de omgeving staat hier in en het wordt ook goed gelezen, de vragen die wij stellen met de antwoorden/beloftes van de politieke partijen staan hier in bijvoorbeeld. En iedereen heeft toegang tot dit blad.' (...) 'mensen kunnen hier naartoe als ze vragen of problemen hebben en wij acteren vervolgens op een gemeentelijk niveau.'

This indicates that the inhabitants can come to the village council whenever they have a problem or an idea that they think needs to be discussed in the village council meetings. In theory the village councils take any suggestion from citizens into consideration, when such an issue is acknowledged by multiple inhabitants, it may even be addressed to the municipality council. Earlier in the interview the village council chair even stated that the council of Glanerbrug does not act unless inhabitants specifically ask for their support. For Glanerbrug this indicates that the input legitimacy is from a very high level with citizens involvement being a key aspect of the organisation acting at all. For the other two village councils there is also the option for citizens to come forth with their own ideas or issues however, the village council is less dependent on it to be able to act at all. It is also worth to note that all three of the villages have their own website where they post the latest developments surrounding plans regarding for example resolving traffic issues or the building of new housing locations. Other matters the villages post on their website are information or updates about the organisation of events or festivals, examples of this are the celebrations surrounding *Koningsdag* or Easter. Aside from that and maybe more importantly, each of the villages have their own village newspaper that also reports on the actions that they have taken or it posts about the questions and answers they have given and received from the municipality of Enschede. These newspapers are published multiple times a year and they are delivered door-to-door around the entire village so even if someone does not have a subscription on the local newspaper *Tubantia* they still receive the village newspaper so that inhabitants can inform themselves about the latest news within the decision-making process of the village council.

Output legitimacy

Whilst input legitimacy is about the responsiveness of the government when making new policies, output legitimacy is about the effectiveness of the policies that have been implemented (Scharpf, 1998). What can be deduced from the interviews is that all the advice that is given by the village councils has to be taken into consideration before the municipality of Enschede can act. The municipality cannot do anything that affects the village without first consulting their official consultation partner, the village council. From the interviews it became clear that this is an agreement with a legal basis that states that the village councils have to be involved. This was stated for example by the *stadsdeel-manager West* where he said:

‘Formeel hebben zij adviesrecht over alles wat te maken heeft met bestemmingsplannen zoals alle wijkraden in Enschede en de dorpsraad Boekelo hoort daar ook bij. Wij zijn aan onszelf verplicht en aan onze regels dat we een wijk of dorpsorgaan om advies vragen bij een wijziging van een bestemmingsplan. Daarnaast heeft de dorpsraad ook informeel adviesrecht dus af en toe komt er iets voorbij waarvan de dorpsraad kan zeggen ‘Ja daar vinden wij nog wel iets van’ en bijvoorbeeld rondom groen onderhoud een paar jaar terug was het dorp Boekelo het niet eens met de plannen om daar op te bezuinigen dus daar zijn we toen mee om de tafel gegaan om te vragen wat hun wens was. Dat is toen net voor de verkiezingstijd even geparkeerd om dan na de verkiezingen weer mee verder te gaan en toen zijn we gaan kijken of dat misschien kon door zelfbeheer, zou Boekelo met hun eigen budget zelf het onderhoud van het openbare groen kunnen doen, over dat soort dingen denken ze na.’

Once an issue has been brought to the attention of the village council and they themselves have reached on an agreement for the advice that they are going to send the municipality, the municipality has to respond to that advice. An example that was given in the interviews was the organisation of a new model aircraft flying club in Boekelo. The old location was bought by a private investor and now this club had to look for a new place, preferably within the borders of the municipality of Enschede. They had their eyes set on a piece of land in the rural area of Boekelo because that seemed spacious enough for them to be able to continue with their flying activities. The model aircraft flying club as well as the municipality of Enschede have asked the village council of Boekelo whether or not they think the club should be allowed to practice their activities in the area. The advice has not been given out yet but if the municipality decides that they agree with the advice given to them from the village council then there are no particular problems and the model aircraft club can either continue their activities or they will have to look for another location. However, the municipality of Enschede also has the right to reject the advice that has been given to them by the village council but if they do, they will have to come with good arguments as to why they are not following the advice. The municipality of Enschede is not able to just ignore the advice and continue with their vision anyways, the advice given by the village council matters and is not just a formality.

Internal legitimacy

In the theoretical framework internal legitimacy has been described as ‘the acceptance or normative validation of an organizational strategy through the consensus of its participants’ (Drori and Honig, 2013). This means that the people within the organisation, in the case of this research the village council members, themselves accept the decisions they made as legitimate and valuable. When comparing the outcomes of the interviews it became clear that each of the villages had a different view on how they see themselves as legitimate. Therefore this section of the analysis will provide a separate explanation for each of the individual villages and once this has been done an overall comparison is made.

Boekelo has the biggest difference in internal legitimacy when comparing this village with the other two villages. The main reason for this is that, as stated before, the village of Boekelo has an elected village council with elections being held at the same time as the municipal elections every four years. Because the village council of Boekelo is elected, the members of the council view their organisation as fairly legitimate. The inhabitants of Boekelo have the opportunity to decide who they want in the village council and through the process of voting the most favourable candidates are selected. The voting should subsequently lead to a council that is representative for the entire village. However, the village council member of Boekelo admitted during the interview that this representation may be somewhat skewed as each of the inhabitants of Boekelo is able to vote for five candidates and not just one. He stated that the reason for being able to select more than one person to be in the council is due to Boekelo being a relatively small village with only about 3000 to 3500 inhabitants. If every inhabitant could only vote for one person, this could lead to only a few people getting a lot of the votes whilst other some people may get very little or no votes at all. This in turn could first of all lead to a small village council because if only five people are getting votes and the rest that are on the candidates list are getting none of the votes these people have no elective mandate. Secondly, only being allowed one vote per inhabitant could lead to the same people getting in the village council over and over again which would prevent other people from getting the opportunity to become a member of the council. However, the village council member of Boekelo also stated that even though this system may seem a bit odd, it does not lead to any problems amongst the inhabitants of the village. The inhabitants do not complain about the current situation and if they do have an issue, they can always come to a member of the village council to state their problem and to maybe find a solution. To summarize, the village council of Boekelo view themselves as a legitimate organisation simply because they are elected and therefore receive the approval of the voter to do their job.

Glanerbrug is already different from Boekelo due to Glanerbrug having a non-elected village council. During the interview the chair of the village council stated that in the past Glanerbrug used to have an elected village council and that they have talked about re-instating this but they came to the conclusion that organising elections for a village council is in their opinion a façade. The main reason according to him is that no new members would join the village council and it would only be something to keep up the appearance of being a democratically elected council. The chair also stated in the interview that because of their legal status within the municipality as the official consultation partner they do not need to have an elected council. The village council will have the same rights and competences regardless of whether or not they are elected. This statement has however more to do with the external legitimacy which will be discussed in the next section. since the legal status of the village council is something that is given to it through the external actors of the municipality. Nevertheless the chair of the village council of Glanerbrug internally regards the council as a legitimate organisation solely on the basis of the external legitimacy. One important factor that also should be taken into consideration is that within Glanerbrug itself so-called *buurt-comités* are actually more relevant for inhabitants than the actual village council. The *buurt-comités* are smaller organisations that only make decisions or give advice when it comes to matters in their own neighbourhood instead of for the entire village. The village council chair indicated that it is disappointing but also understandable that people would rather join a committee that specifically deals with issues in their own neighbourhood than a council for the entire village. He also mentioned the fact that these *buurt-comités* are the most active organisations within the village, the village council of Glanerbrug only serves as an over-arching organisations that can act when the *buurt-comités* cannot figure it out or they have an issue that they want to have discussed with the municipality of Enschede. To summarize, the village council of Glanerbrug views themselves as legitimate because of the legal status that they have. Therefore they feel like it is not necessary to hold an election since it would only lead to a farce that they therefore do not require an election to be seen as the official and legitimate consultation partner for the municipality of Enschede.

Lonneker also does not have an elected village council and therefore differs from the village council of Boekelo. However, Lonneker is also different from Glanerbrug because rather than just having a somewhat random selection of people in their village council, they try to get representation through selecting members based on the geographical location of where they live inside the village. What this means is that their members come from all the parts of the village, some are from the core of the village, others come from the rural area and there are also some members that come from the new-housing estate areas of the village. The reason for doing this is that through this method each small section of the village has at least one representative in the council so that that part of the village can express their issues when needed. The village council chair stated in the interview that if there is a part of the village that does not feel represented, either in general or when an issue that concerns them arises, they themselves can nominate someone from their area to enter the village council, which is also the way the chairman himself got into the village council. During the interview the chairman, like the chairman from Glanerbrug, did however state that an election for the village council is not needed because of their legal status as official partner. He added that because of the small community in the village it is easy for inhabitants to talk to one of the members to address something that bothers them. So to summarize the village council of Lonneker feels that they are legitimate both through the way they organize themselves with selecting people from the different areas of the village but also because of that legal status that they have.

External legitimacy

The external legitimacy as discussed by Drori and Honig (2013), is about the way the policies from an organization are legitimate because people that are from outside that organization view the policy as legitimate. External legitimacy was something that within this research is primarily researched through the interviews with the *stadsdeel-managers*. They are the ones that are not directly inside the village council but rather another governmental body that has to deal with the policy advice that is provided by the village councils. The main focus for the external legitimacy will therefore be derived from the interviews with the *stadsdeel-managers*.

One of the most important answers that was found in the interviews with especially the *stadsdeel-managers*, was that in the eyes of the municipality of Enschede there is no difference in legitimacy when comparing an elected and a non-elected village council. The main reason for this is, once again, that the village councils all have the same legal status as the official consultation partner for the village in relation to the municipality. As stated before this means that they all have the same competences and rights, it does not favour an elected village council over a non-elected council, just because of the supposedly more legitimate process in getting the village council the way it is. An important note to make is that this is fairly logical since every other city district within city of Enschede itself has that same status as an officially recognized consultation partner. This means that the city district of Pathmos has the same capabilities as e.g. Lonneker with regards to providing advice or suggestions when it comes to a matter of spatial planning or infrastructure. To summarize the main point, although an elected village council may receive more support amongst citizens because they voted for those who are 'in power', according to the municipality of Enschede and thus the external legitimacy, this does not matter.

Conclusion and recommendations

In this final chapter the main research question that was posed at the beginning of this research will be answered. Afterwards some reflection on the theory and hypotheses will be added and moreover some policy recommendations and other recommendations are presented.

At the start of this research the research question was ‘How do the current representatives of the municipality and the village council members from the villages that are part of the municipality of Enschede view the effect that voting for village council has on the legitimacy of those village councils?’. A quick and summarized answer to this is that the current stadsdeel managers, view each of the village councils as a legitimate organisation because they have the legal status as the official consultation partner between village and the municipality of Enschede. Simultaneously, the current village council members view their respective councils as a legitimate governmental body in their own way because they each have their own method of creating a legitimate atmosphere. Moreover the advice provided by the village councils, their output, has to be taken into account when larger decisions are made, it is not possible for the advice to be ignored by the municipality.

The main hypothesis that was posed before the analysis, was that there would indeed be a difference in legitimacy. This hypothesis assumed that the elected village council of Boekelo is seen as a more legitimate organisation than the councils in the other villages. After this research however, this hypothesis can overall be rejected with several aspects that explain as to why this hypothesis is rejected for the most part.

First of all, from an external legitimacy point of view there is no difference in legitimacy, the municipality of Enschede offers each of their consultation partners the same treatment regardless of whether or not their partner is an elected organisation. The external view is, to reiterate, the view on the village councils given by the outsiders which in the case of this research are the stadsdeel-managers. Secondly, from the perspective of the internal legitimacy the village council members also state that there is no real difference in legitimacy between an elected council or non-elected council. As stated before, they too mention the legal status that their village council occupies which gives them the same competences as any other village or city-district council. Moreover it is noted by the village council members that each of the villages make sure that inhabitants feel represented either through the elections as in Boekelo or the member selection process as in Lonneker. As a third point that can be concluded from the analysis, is that the way the village councils are operating very much stimulates the involvement of inhabitants to come forward with their concerns and ideas as seen with the neighbourhood councils in Glanerbrug. The village council members mainly derive their idea of internal legitimacy from the way they try to involve, represent and listen to the inhabitants. The last part that can be concluded from the analysis, is that the output legitimacy is perceived to be quite efficient. The argument for this, is that the municipality has to inquire for advice from the village council whenever a decision regarding the village has to be taken.

In conclusion, when it comes to most of the legitimacy aspects, there is no real difference between either an elected or a non-elected village council. The main argument being the legal status that gives each of the village councils the same rights and competences regarding the decision-making process in the municipality of Enschede. However, according to the respondents from the village councils, the sentimental feeling of having an elected village council could still have a positive effect on the input legitimacy of the councils. Besides the respondents stating the possibility of a positive effect on the input legitimacy, the respondents also imply that it has a positive effect on the internal legitimacy of councils. However, despite these statements, the respondents also state that they are satisfied with the current procedure for the selection of members, according to them communication with the inhabitants and the possibility for the inhabitants to propose any of their ideas functions accordingly.

Policy recommendations

The first policy recommendation would be to allow the village councils to continue their current course of action and not forcefully pressure them into becoming an elected organisation. The main argument for this is that at the moment the village councils know for themselves how to include the inhabitants and how to be representative. The approaches that both the village councils of Lonneker and Glanerbrug have for organising a non-elected village council is a good alternative that still allows the inhabitants of both villages to feel represented. Therefore forcing the village councils to become an elected organisation is not a necessary step. However, if in the future the idea of an elected council becomes more prevalent amongst its members and a genuine wish, the municipality could support the village councils in any possible way to coordinate a transition from non-elected towards an elected organisation.

A second policy recommendation would be to assist the village councils, and becoming a member, to become more attractive to citizens. In the interviews the village council members stated that it is relatively hard to gain new members. This is mostly due to the time constraints that people with full-time jobs as well as having a household to sustain experience. Ultimately it comes down to the fact that being a member of a village council remains something that is on a voluntary basis. This however does not mean that the recommendation is to make membership of a village council something that is compulsory. The recommendation is rather to present some sort of incentive to those who become a part of their village council. The incentive could make it more appealing for someone to join their village council and in the process make their village council more representative.

Recommendations for further research

The first recommendation would be to interview more members of the village councils and more people from within the municipality of Enschede. By interviewing more people, there is an increase in the amount of ideas regarding village councils and their legitimacy but also what improvements could be made to the current course of action that the village councils maintain. This increase would make the research more representative and lead to better answers to several of the questions that were posed at the beginning of the research. For people that could be interviewed the main recommendations would be to include the aldermen that were missing from this research. Besides the aldermen some people from the department of 'stadsdeel-beheer' could be interviewed since they also are involved with the proceedings in the municipality of Enschede. Although it can be said that the department of 'stadsdeel-beheer' is not as much a political body, they mainly have to deal with maintenance of the public domain. From the perspective of the village councils some notable candidates are more village council members to get a better overall representation of the attitude that the village council has towards their own internal legitimacy.

A second recommendation for further research would be to hand out survey's in the villages to get the opinions on the village councils from the inhabitants themselves. With this current research the ideas of input and output legitimacy have only been analysed from an indirect perspective and with the opinions of the inhabitants themselves the analysis can be performed directly. However, due to the time constraints that this research had it was not possible to perform large scale research with survey's amongst the inhabitants. This option could possibly still be used for a master thesis and if it then still proves to be too large of a research topic it is definitely an interesting topic that can be researched during a PhD programme. If the option of doing a large scale research with survey's is chosen they could either be sent via e-mails to several inhabitants of the village or perhaps through door-to-door conversations by getting people to fill it in. Performing this research design would first of all already require a lot of time to do the actual research but afterwards when all the data has been recovered, coding and then analysing it would also take some time.

The third recommendation is something that was already mentioned in the findings chapter of this thesis as it was suggested by one of the *stadsdeel-mangers*. The suggestion, again, was to do an in-depth review of all the policies that were developed through the cooperation between the village councils and the different municipal institutions. This would, first of all, provide an overview of all the plans and subsequently the opportunity to see to what extent the policies were effective. Finding out the effectiveness of all the policies gives a better overall indication of what the output legitimacy is really like for the village councils. This suggestion was not pursued due to the time constraints but it would be a good method to increase the validity regarding the statements about output legitimacy.

A fourth and final recommendation for this research, although it is more along the lines of additional options that are a possibility to include, would be to include the village of Usselo and some of the other city district councils within the municipality of Enschede. For this research these options were not selected, Usselo because of its small size and the other city district councils because they were not part of the framework posed in the research question. However, these councils are still part of the municipality of Enschede and because they too have the aforementioned legal status as official consultation partner they also have the competences to influence the decision-making process in the municipality of Enschede. For the village of Usselo it would be interesting to see if an area that is as small as it is, is still taken as serious as the other villages or city districts. Regarding the inclusion of the city district councils, this would give insight into whether or not these councils have a structure that is different from the village councils. If they were to be included, the research question should be altered to take into account all the different areas and districts of the municipality of Enschede and not just the villages. It could be an interesting research topic to see whether or not there are differences between villages and city districts or perhaps something else, this is up to anyone that is going to do further research into this topic.

Limitations

The research was done within the limitations of the municipality of Enschede and because of the limitations that came with doing research and writing the thesis. This in itself is not necessarily a negative thing because, in the research question it was clearly stated that this thesis would constrain itself to the villages that are part of the municipality of Enschede. As stated during the analysis part, the *stadsdeel-managers* were very interested in the outcome of this research. This shows that the legitimacy question in the village councils is something that is considered to be important according to the people that work for the municipality of Enschede. Therefore it can be said that the decision to do this research in the municipality of Enschede was valuable and could potentially offer help to the municipality regarding future policy decisions. However, the argument can be made that the current research method of a qualitative case study does not provide a proper view on the legitimacy of the village councils. Primarily because it only offers the view of the people from the administrative side and not the view from actual inhabitants of the villages. Especially with regards to the theories on external legitimacy this limits the ability to offer more representative statements about the external legitimacy matter. In that case quantitative research with large scale survey's around the village would have provided a better understanding of what the inhabitants think of their village councils and whether or not they regard the council as legitimate. This was nevertheless, as stated several times before, not an option for this bachelor thesis but it would have been a better research method. An additional limitation was in regards to the output legitimacy where it proved to be difficult to receive answers about the effectiveness of the decisions made by the village councils. There were indications, that stated that the policy output of the village councils is quite good and that the results are valued by the inhabitants. However, due to the aforementioned time constraints this research did not take further actions concerning these policies. As stated in the recommendations for further research, a suggestion to improve this was to do an in-depth review of all the policies that were developed across the last administration period and check the effectiveness afterwards.

Reflections

Looking back at the scientific relevance, this paper is an addition to the literature on legitimacy and it shows that a governmental institution does not always need to be elected in order to be legitimate. All three of the village councils show that they are legitimate in their own unique way and that they try their best to improve where possible. The examples given by Lonneker and Glanerbrug are not legitimate through the conventional methods but by selecting members based on the place they live inside the village (Lonneker) or by being a larger over-arching organisations for a lot of smaller neighbourhood councils (Glanerbrug) it gives to clear examples of other methods. These methods may even be something that the conventional way of selecting governmental institutions could learn from. As argued by both the village council members as well as the *stadsdeel-managers*, these methods could prove to be more legitimate, from a certain point of view. Either because they are more inclusive towards all the sections of the villages instead of just the core, or because each small neighbourhood receives the opportunity to first figure things out on their own and decide for themselves on smaller issues and that the larger organisation only steps in for bigger issues.

Other aspects that were discussed in the interview are also interesting ideas for potential policies or future research. For example, the idea to have the half of the members in a village council selected through a process of voting whilst the other half is selected through a process of random assignment. These are ideas that could potentially make the legitimacy in the village councils better and they are very interesting concepts to look into. If current representatives of the municipality of Enschede can up with these ideas, albeit based on a system that is already in use somewhere else in the world, it means that there are still new methods to evolve modern day administration. Moreover, it is an indication that creativity amongst public administrators had not disappeared and that they are still in a process to revitalize the public domain.

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Data Appendix

Appendix 1

Interview vragen wethouder/stadsdeel manager A

1. Hoe vaak heeft u gemiddeld jaarlijks contact gehad met de dorpsraad van (x) over de afgelopen college periode?

2. Was dit contact formeel, met de volledige dorpsraad en een agenda of informeel met enkele individuele leden?

3. Heeft u vaak tussentijds contact met de dorpsraad voorzitter, telefonisch of per e-mail?

4. Over welke onderwerpen wordt u geadviseerd door de dorpsraden?

5. Wegen de adviezen van een gekozen dorpsraad zwaarder, dan die van een dorpsraad met op andere wijze benoemde leden?

6. Wat is volgens u de ideale organisatie structuur voor de verhouding tussen dorpsraad en gemeente bestuur

7. Hoe kijkt u aan tegen het draagvlak van de dorpsraad?

8. Heeft u nog tips voor de dorpsraden om hun draagvlak te vergroten?

9. In hoeverre worden de dorpsraden betrokken bij de ontwikkeling van de politieke agenda van de stad?

10. Als u in mijn positie zou zitten, wat zou dan nog vragen aan degene in uw positie?

Appendix 2

Interview vragen dorpsraadvoorzitter/lid A

1. Volgens mijn gegevens bestaat de dorpsraad (x) uit (y) leden, klopt dit?
2. Is er de afgelopen 4 jaar veel gewijzigd in de samenstelling van de dorpsraad?
3. Hoe worden nieuwe leden voor de dorpsraad geworven?
4. Is er over het algemeen belangstelling om lid te worden van de dorpsraad?
 - 4.1 Wat voor type mensen zijn hier in geïnteresseerd?
5. Hoe vaak heeft u gemiddeld jaarlijks contact met de stadsdeel wethouder?
6. Is dit contact formeel met een agenda of informeel?
7. Hoe vaak geeft u gemiddeld per jaar adviezen aan het college?
 - 7.2 In hoeverre wordt er volgens u iets gedaan met de gegeven adviezen?
8. Is de visie van de dorpsraad terug te vinden in de plannen van het college?
9. Denkt u dat de adviezen van een gekozen dorpsraad zwaarder (zouden) wegen dan de adviezen van een niet gekozen dorpsraad?
10. In hoeverre communiceert de dorpsraad met het dorp over de te geven adviezen?
11. Hoe kijkt u aan tegen het draagvlak van de dorpsraad?
12. In hoeverre ontvangt de dorpsraad steun van de gemeente Enschede?
13. Als u in mijn positie zou zitten, wat zou dan nog vragen aan degene in uw positie?