

Horses for the Land

Now that a calm, well-bred thoroughbred stallion stands at stud in the village, he produces with local carriage horse mares a new sort of farm horse. Intelligence, health and kindness of this new breed gives pleasure both to riders and owners.

The regional owners association has begun to maintain and train this new breed according to a time tested model, which was common in Central Asia as early as some 5000 years ago. Local consolidation includes forest as well as pasture land. Some of the protein rich cattle fields have been ploughed up and reseeded with low-protein grasses. Colts at the age of six month are separated from the herd and taken to the central district stud, where they are fed for growth and strength and trained for speed, even at an early age. Most horses return to their owners to help with farming and transport.

Household youngsters ride these horses and use them to go school. On a field behind the workshop young and old stallions can play and jockey for strength. Cheeky ones are tied up under a roof along the rear workshop wall. There they must wait until school is over. And then it goes off back home.

Many of the before mentioned interconnecting gravel paths have three lanes. Into a 30 cm road bed coarse stone is deposited and a short hard wearing ground cover is seeded. It softens the stone's sharp edges and never grows above a few centimetres length. Paths - as a result - survive the wet season well and are fully maintenance free. In the center of the road one lane is for pedestrians. Left and right two are for horse and riders or carriages. One in each direction. Speed is limited to twenty kilometres per hour. These paths also are used for small scale field equipment and transportation of the sick and elderly, using small mechanical equipment.

Transported on these roads are also tiny houses for placement in selected spots on the land. All mobile devices, on the ground or in the air, for transport of people or goods, for farming or other displacements, are solar or hydrogen powered. A workshop in the village specialises on their repair and maintenance. Spare parts are ordered online and delivered by drone. These transport drones also can be serviced in the village. The discussion continues, if bells or ring tones have to be carried on the roads to give notice to pedestrians. Drones and drone routes are regulated state wide and controlled regionally. They largely follow former streets.

The path from our house to the village runs downhill. Going back home thus takes longer, calling for extra time and a headlight, which we purchased in town. With these walks to the village no daily bedroom fitness programs are needed. With the disappearance of fast noisy gas-guzzling individual car traffic, fragmentation of land and country-side would come to an end.

On the way home it crackles in the undergrowth. At the rise of the hill the sunken path ends. A huge November moon illuminates landscape and clouds.

Solar and or wind powered drones will make for new gentler and quieter options of transport for man and the land. By the same token a new understanding of money could and should abolish current predatory capitalism.