



The Mt. Tron Mail

April 2007 • Mt. Tron University of Peace Foundation • No. 1 Vol. 10



Mt. Tron with the Peace Plateau. In front the river Glomma with four Whooper swans, March 31st 2007. Photo: BP.

Finally, the University of Peace has been fixed on the municipality's land use map!

Finally - that which once was hold out as an expected event in 1995-96, is now happening 11-12 years later! So for this we have been waiting long! On page 3 we show a section from the municipality's preliminary map sketch illustrating the main strategy of a proposal to the planning programme for the part of the municipality's land use. The municipality underlines that this is only a rough draft without showing any exact borders. The map sketch is part of the Municipal Plan for Alvdal 2007-2020 where 'proposal to text part and planning programme for the part of the land use' has been sent The Mt. Tron University of Peace Foundation for comments.

Last time the Foundation received proposal to the Municipal Plan for comments was in August 2005, and The Mt. Tron Mail wrote about it in the September issue the same year (No. 3 Vol. 8).

On the next pages we reproduce the Foundation's consultative statement from that time (dated 04.09.2005) in its entirety. In the new proposal the Foundation has received for comments this time, based on that from September 2005, we have noted that we have been heard and that the municipality to a substantial degree has taken our statements into consideration. This applies particularly to the main strategy about development and preservation, with a special protection of our wild reindeer, together with the placement of the University of Peace on the Peace Plateau on Mt. Tron.

Deadline for forwarding remarks to the plan proposal has by the municipality been set to the 1st of May this year. Reference to the plan proposal and the Foundation's consultative statement this time will be given account of in a later edition of The Mt. Tron Mail.

CONSULTATIVE STATEMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL PLAN REPORT

First of all we wish to give credit to the municipality for a good piece of work so far and we feel this looks good for the continuation.

Concerning the big outlines for development in the Alvdal society on the background of natural and human resources, we consider, like many others, that the future for a major part lies in tourism-based activity with emphasis on learning and adventure tourism based on nature, wildlife, history, culture, mountain farm traditions, food traditions, etc.

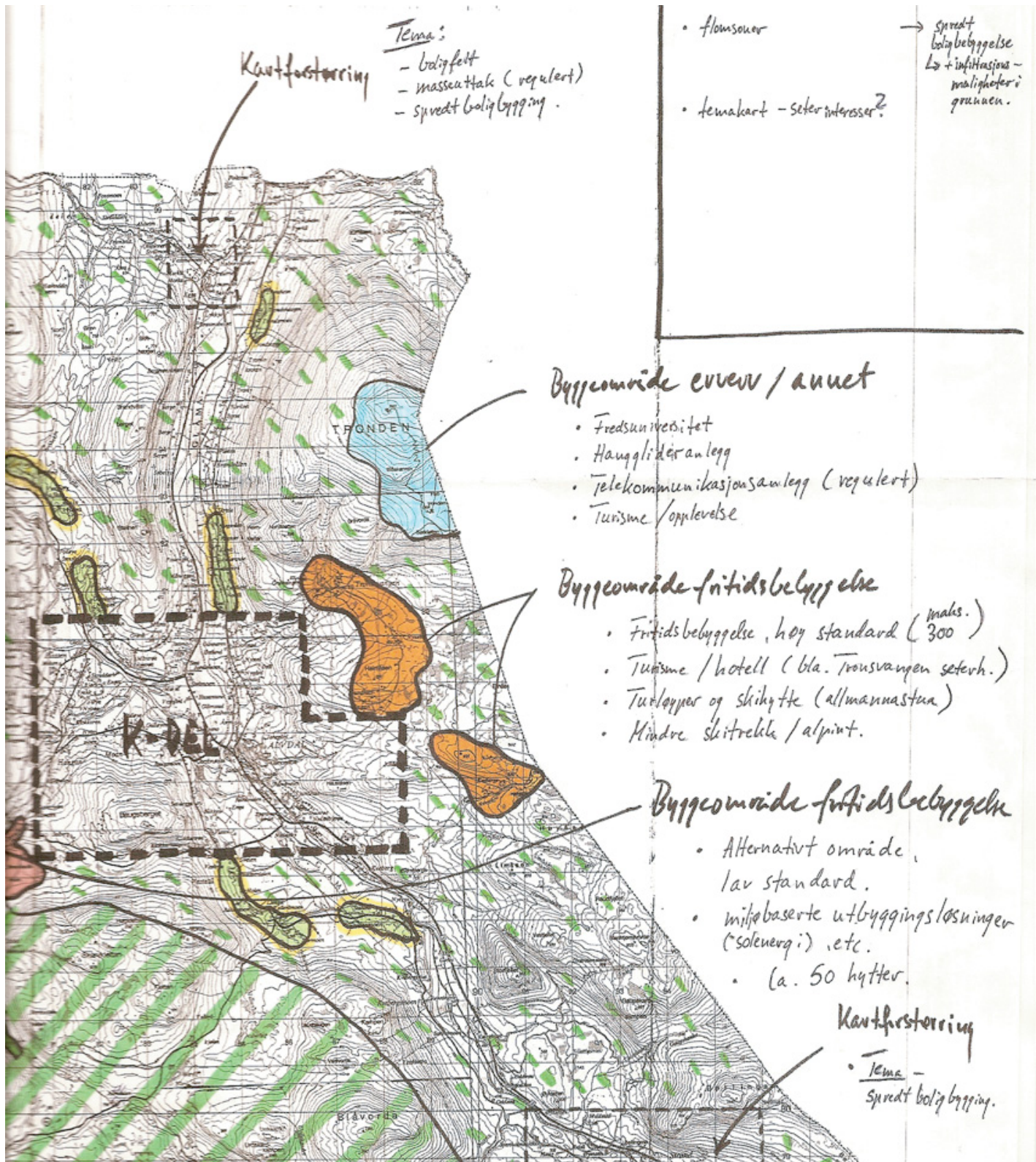
From nature's side the municipality is well endowed both geologically and biologically, which in itself actually forms a completely unique and distinctive character for Alvdal, with Jutulhogget ("The Giant's Canyon"), Mt.Tron and Alvdal Vestfjell ("The Western Mountains of Alvdal") as some of the most prominent components. Of these Alvdal Vestfjell should definitely constitute the most development-free, protected area for the future, especially concerning the unique, original population of wild reindeer which Alvdal together with its neighbouring municipalities have an international responsibility to preserve and administer. It is important that the Alvdal society is itself conscious of this administration and understand the value of having a unique wild reindeer population in its near surroundings, together with the degree of virginity, continuity and area size such a population demands. Alvdal Vestfjell has moreover unique cultural historical values (from stone age settlements to modern mountain farms) and geological sights which together with a complete water system and an exciting fauna forms an impressive foundation for experiences and recreation. The size and variation of the area, together with a comparatively small degree of development and human intervention, are some of the factors which makes the area most attractive. All this can be utilized in a good way by careful, future directed and an overall planning and preparation on before hand - but such an overall detailed planning will also be completely necessary for the area's preservation.

Here it may be in place to recollect that Alvdal Vestfjell already contains 5 of the municipality's 11 especially important wildlife areas, as they have been defined and marked off on the municipality's "Map of Wildlife Areas", being a thematic area map in the existing Municipal Plan. However, with regard to the wild reindeer, all common sense justifies - independent of formal and narrow methods of mapping - that all of Alvdal Vestfjell be defined as an "especially important wildlife area". Not many other places in Norway can you see all our four deer within a comparatively limited area, and the same holds also good for our four large carnivores - bear, wolf, wolverine and lynx. In the latter case this is unique also in a European context. The one-sided negative attitude towards predatory mammals which is prevalent in Østerdalen ('The Eastern Valley'), and which otherwise the majority of Norwegians together with all foreigners have very difficulty of understanding, should be nuanced and turned to something positive which can be utilized both directly and indirectly for trade. Nature's intrinsic value is something which one in the future only will value more and more, both in the literary and in the metaphorical sense. On the ground that life style, pattern of society and work situation become more and more stressing and unnatural, the need for experiencing virgin nature and harmony becomes bigger and bigger. Mountain, forest, pure water, silence - all what we Alvdal people take for granted are almost priceless values which are only dreamt about in other parts of the heavily urbanized Western World. And all this Alvdal has the possibility of offering in rich measures.

Besides geology and flora, Mt.Tron excels first of all by the fact that Swami Sri Ananda Acharya lived here for 27 years of his life and is actually buried high up on the mountain. His history is unique not only for Norway, but for all of Europe and one should be aware that on this ground Mt.Tron is known as "The Mountain of Wisdom in Norway" in the world. Here, great possibilities for brand building and development for the whole village should be lying in the future. As the municipality knows, Anandacharya's great idea of a university of peace on the Peace Plateau is being continued by the Mt.Tron University of Peace Foundation, which consequently has a concrete project for processing in the municipality. The Foundation has, since its founding in 1993, been engaged in the focusing on the individual human being - its intrinsic value and possibilities - and holds that this is a focus which we already now see coming more and more forth among leading characters in the social debate and which will only become more and more current in the time to come. We think that a university of peace on Mt.Tron may attain a strong symbolical effect in the world with mountain nature, human dignity and peace - all what Norway is known for abroad - collected at one place, namely in the peaceful mountain village Alvdal. We think, of course, that this will make for enormous possibilities for the Alvdal society already in the near future, and that this will have great spreading consequences not only locally and regionally, but also nationally. The Mt.Tron University of Peace calls for an international audience and will be able to make Alvdal known all over the world. The place and name 'Alvdal' will be synonymous with 'mountain nature, human dignity and peace' out in the big world if the Foundation will have it as we have thought and planned for during 12 years now.

Mt.Tron is already developed enough not to be defined as virgin nature any more, in regard to the installations of Nor-kring ("The National Telecommunication Company") and Luftfartsverket ("The National Aviation Authorities") at the peak, which is thereby regulated, together with "The Mt.Tron Road" which runs from Tronsvangen (at the foot of the mountain) over "The Peace Plateau" all the way to the peak. However, these installations will not be visible from the area where the planned University of Peace will be placed on "The Peace Plateau", where the site's peacefulness and the grandeur of the view on 1300 metres on a free-standing mountain, will be more than enough 'virgin nature' for the visitors. The location above the timber line on the mountain is one of the premises for the accomplishment of the University of Peace idea. Since the monument over Anandacharya, which is also the foundation stone of the University of Peace, already lies on "The Peace Plateau" and Anandacharya's grave lies about 3 km westward from there on 1400 metres, the placement of the University of Peace has a historical connection to the location. And together with the presence of "The Mt.Tron Road", all this already makes "The Peace Plateau" well arranged for the University of Peace. The very thought of a University of Peace on a mountain in a small village in Norway will act almost as a magnet on foreigners and it will be attractive for tourists from all parts who will travel up the mountain to have a closer look at the beautiful building. The Foundation has already planned for this with traffic regulation on the spot, and with the offering of guided tours to casual visiting tourists, restaurant and various kinds of experiences.

In connection with this, and to sum up this consultative statement, the Foundation holds that the Alvdal society should, for the future, concentrate on - in addition to the perseverance and further development of the already existing trades (farming, industry, service, etc.) - tourism based activity where



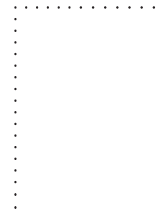
Section from the map sketch from 'proposal to planning programme for the municipality plan's part of the land use' from 21.02.07, illustrating the main strategy in 'proposal to the municipality plan's text part'. We see The University of Peace ("Fredsuniversitetet") put on paper among others in the blue coloured development area on Mt. Tron.

roughly virgin nature, unique wildlife, Aukrust, Anandacharya and the University of Peace are the characteristic qualities which are offered to the visitors.

The Foundation will as a matter of course be mainly responsible for the development of the offerings for both Anandacharya and the University of Peace, but is necessarily dependent on the cooperation with, and the preparation from, the municipality. In the light of the chairman's earlier complicity in the municipality's planning work with the wildlife mapping, he will also be able to offer his competence in this field for disposal in connection with the offering of virgin nature and wildlife.

The Foundation maintains that a small village that wishes to survive in the future must allow itself to think a little big and venture to dare. Everybody knows the validity of the proverb 'he who doesn't dare, doesn't win!' We know of village people who wish to use Anandacharya in trade and we know also about many, including families with children, who wish to move to Alvdal and live here as soon as the University of Peace is becoming more physically concrete and if the possibilities for work are present (which naturally grows better these days by the possibility of home work via PC, Internet and broad band technology).

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The Mt. Tron Mail - the newsletter for those interested in the establishing of the Mt. Tron University of Peace

<i>Publisher:</i>	Mt. Tron University of Peace Foundation	<i>Address:</i>	“Shantibu”, 2560 Alvdal, Norway
<i>Editor:</i>	Bjørn Pettersen (Chairman of the Foundation)	<i>Telephone:</i>	+47 62 11 36 91
<i>Issues:</i>	Quarterly (4 times a year)	<i>E-mail:</i>	shanti@tronuni.org
<i>Languages:</i>	Norwegian and English	<i>Internet:</i>	www.tronuni.org
<i>Prices:</i>	Subscription of support NOK 350,-/year (US\$ 50,- UK£ 35,- € 44,-) Single copies NOK 35,-/piece	<i>Organization No.:</i>	990 106 118
		<i>IBAN:</i>	NO94 1895 2650 935
		<i>BIC-address:</i>	SHEDNO22
		<i>Bank name:</i>	Sparebanken Hedmark



The four Whooper swans from the front side photo, zoomed in three times and enlarged. Photo: BP.

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Further, in the light of all this, the Foundation maintains that it will be most appropriate for the municipality that future development and building mainly happen east of the river Glomma, so that all of Alvdal Vestfjell ("The Western Mountains") may be protected for further development and technical engagement, while parts of Østkjølen ("The Eastern Hills") becomes target for both holiday houses and living houses. We view positively any attitude that considers the Mt. Tron area as an area of aiming for the municipality (as publicly declared ten years ago), and in this connection want to bring to memory the plans of the Mt. Tron Hangglider Club for practise of their sport on the Peace Plateau. Mt. Tron distinguishes itself as one of the very best locations for hanggliding in Norway, but certain facilities and arrangements are missing among the performers.

The Foundation has therefore made contact with the club for cooperation on possible sharing of functions between the University of Peace and the hangglider club, in which we for the least may be common about car parking, together with the possibility that certain of the club's storage- and staying functions may be laid to the University's premises. Other important actors based on tourism and holiday houses in the Mt. Tron area are Tronsvangen Seterhotell and Spirit AS.

Finally it is only to be mentioned that the Foundation holds that those proposals forwarded here are in accordance with the intentions in the national planning project form the Ministry of Agriculture; "Innlandet 2010" and "Innovasjon 2010", together with "Fylkesplan for Hedmark 2005-2008".