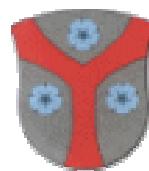


Contribution from Tommerup



Tourism in Tommerup

I can't give you a very big contribution of the question of local tourism. So what I'm going to say will be very short. The reason for that is very simple.

In Tommerup we haven't got any tradition in developing local tourism and we haven't got any tourism at least not in the traditional way. I think it is because we don't really think we can earn money in that business.

We know there could be a future in tourism, but we aren't that good in organising and promoting.

I also think the Danish "Jante Law" which means you shall not believe that you are somebody and you shall not believe that you are capable of doing anything, plays a role. Perhaps we think in the same way when we are describing the landscape in Tommerup. The first things to mention when we describe the landscape are; we don't have the sea, it's rather hilly here but we don't have any mountains. I think we have a bit of a inferiority complex which also gives us a good excuse for doing nothing.

I think we have a lot of nice places in Tommerup and we sure could use them much better as we do today.

We are very interested to hear about good examples in the other villages. I have been listening very carefully to the interesting speeches given already. Especially the speech of Alan Briten gave me a lot to think about.

We have some good examples all though there are few of them but one have already had a lot of success. Some local though it was a pity that the old railroad was not being used anymore. They got the idea to build Trolley cycles. Now you can rent a trolley and you can enjoy countryside from the trolley cycle. A lot of people does that and the money earned on that goes to run a museum an old Brick-work. We also have a project called The walking Trails of Tommerup. The network consists of 16 paths and extend for more than 100km and criss-cross the entire Borough of Tommerup. These initiative are not commercial. All the work at the trolleys and the old brick-work are voluntarily. We haven't got any commercial tourism and you can hardly rent a room for the night when you are visiting Tommerup.

The thing I have said here could seem very pessimistic but I think if we are listening carefully to good examples we could learn and at least we could be a bit proud of the place where we are living.

The late famous Danish writer who was a man of the world who had travelled extensively, was born on the island of Fyn, where Tommerup is placed.

His name was Hans Christian Andersen. In 1831 he wrote a poem about Fyn:

Oh, Fyn is such a lovely land
On that everyone agrees.
The people' s hearts are large
and grand
The isle has beaches, fields and trees.

The very name means all is well,
That' s worthy of remark.
The garden of Fyn casts a
powerful spell
-The loveliest part of all
Denmark.

Hans Christian Andersen did not have any inferiority complex so I will use the poem to say that of course we can develop tourism in Tommerup.

Perhaps the lack of tourism until now gives us the opportunity to develop something sustainable and something which in the future can bring new developing to the area.
Lone Akselsen, vicemayor Tommerup