



GEMEENTE  
KAPRIJKE

## Press release

01/09/2011

### **LOTUS BAKERIES INTENDS TO BUY FORMER PRESBYTERY OF LEMBEKE FROM MUNICIPALITY**

*Lotus Bakeries and the Mayor and Councillors of the municipality of Kaprijke have concluded an agreement in principle to sell the former presbytery of Lembeke to Lotus Bakeries.*

The Lembeke site today houses the headquarters of the Lotus Bakeries Group, the organization of the Area Belgium with a.o. its caramelized biscuit factory, the sales and marketing organization and other support departments as well as the Area Export. With the international expansion and internal growth of the business, Lotus Bakeries needs to acquire more office space in the very near future. Lotus Bakeries now has the unique opportunity to buy the former presbytery of Lembeke from the municipality. This location has the advantage of lying just a few hundred meters from the caramelized biscuit factory. In renovating the presbytery, Lotus Bakeries will fully respect its original character. A modern office annex to the left will form an attractive whole with the historical aspects of the former presbytery.

The planned project also offers significant added value to the municipality of Kaprijke. In this way this building, which has been unoccupied for several years, now receives an economically and socially useful function.

On 15 September 2011, the proposal to sell the presbytery will be presented to the Municipal Council for approval. After that the regional development implementation plan for Lembeke-Village needs to be approved. The necessary permits will be then sought.

The Executive Committee of the Lotus Bakeries Group aims to move to the new headquarters, along with a number of corporate departments, before the end of 2013. In this way more space will be created in the existing building for the further development of Area Belgium.

Lotus Bakeries CEO Jan Boone and Kaprijke's Mayor Filip Gijssels are both delighted at the agreement in principle. For Jan Boone *"it is particularly important for Lotus Bakeries to remain anchored in Lembeke, where the company began in 1932"*. Mayor Gijssels sees this project as a unique opportunity: *"this is by far the best destination for this building. It will make Lembeke's village centre even more attractive."*

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