

Traditions of village life gracing the present

Small village of Tinevichi in Korelichi District left without residents several years ago

By Anna Vetkova

Houses stood empty and it was decided to demolish them with a bulldozer. Then, a couple of years ago, a visitor found the neglected village surrounded by forest and bought three houses, alongside a few land lots for development. The village is now truly reviving, with nine more houses added and further construction in full swing. Soon, an unusual tourist site will open in Tinevichi, recreating early 20th century village life.

25km separate Tinevichi from Korelichi, with a newly asphalted road replacing the old gravel track. Driving under the hanging boughs of oak trees, ashes, maples and alders, with hardly a ray of sun penetrating the canopy, I almost became quite lost on the unfamiliar path. Finally, I saw the village and certainly couldn't call it 'neglected'. The roar of tractors and mowing machines and rattle of hammers was heard everywhere. Builders are working every day to help Minsker Pavel Radyukevich breathe new life into Tinevichi.

He admits that he found the village quite by chance and was immediately drawn to the beauty of the surrounding countryside. Lake Svityaz is located within 5km and it's only 35km to Mir Castle, while being one hour by car from Minsk. Mr. Radyukevich's plan to transform Tinevichi into an attractive tourist site is based not on the latest innovations but on recreating a simple village atmosphere, as reigned a hundred years ago.

Of course, his grand plan requires more than just money; huge determination and desire are essential. He had to visit dozens of administrative offices to complete the paperwork to buy three empty houses for himself and his daughter Anna. He also registered Belye Luga farm in Tinevichi and purchased land for it, which is now occupied

Vadim Karmazin, Director of the Sports and Tourism Ministry's Tourism Department:



'The example of the Korelichi District's Tinevichi — previously neglected — is worthy of study and emulation. Just 5-6 years ago, one house was bought as an agro-estate; now, people wish to inject money into several empty village houses. The same situation is being seen in the Lelchitsy, Volozhin and other districts. We have an interesting proposal: a private investor wants to build a farmstead from scratch, registering it officially with a name. Our task is to help such endeavours, to revive villages, while earning money from rural tourism. To achieve this, we'll be creating a databank of empty houses.'



Village of Tinevichi can't now be called neglected



Tinevichi village receives new life

by homes brought from similar neglected villages.

It's a great pleasure to walk through the village, with its cobbled street; it looks magnificent, despite being overgrown with grass. Homes have appeared on several empty sites, each furnished inside to show a near-forgotten way of life from the past. Each home has electricity (with metres installed outside to allow easy reading) and water pipes are being laid.

Fortunately, visitors will have plenty to amuse them in the evenings. A large wooden tavern is being built and a pond has been created, stocked with fish. Keen hunters are being catered for and feeding stations have been installed for wild animals beyond the village. There's even a bee yard at Belye Luga Farm and fruit and vegetable plots for growing fresh produce.

Sadly, I missed out on meeting Mr. Radyukevich, as he was on holiday, but his son Ivan (who also owns a site in the village) was happy to chat. He explained, "We're awaiting our first tourists this autumn; they'll be staying in four cottages. Within 18-24 months, the whole site will be open, including three more saunas. Our farm will be at full strength, growing wheat and

potatoes, as well as breeding pigs and rabbits."

Ruslan Abramchik, the Deputy Chairman of the Korelichi District Executive Committee, is convinced that empty buildings deserve to receive attention. "In this way, we can expand the local budget. Moreover, if rural tourism takes off, it'll bring in additional revenue. We have a lot of work to do, naturally. Five years ago, 98 houses were considered 'empty' in our district, with 36 becoming the property of the Rural Council by court order. Some have since been demolished while others have been either inherited or sold. There are now just 43 empty houses on the register; we're still deciding what to do with them."

The MT's reference:

From September 1st, 2012, it will be easier for local executive committees to sell or transfer gratuitously empty houses located in villages. Presidential Decree #100, entering into force from this date, envisages a new mechanism of transferring derelict buildings to investors. Houses which lack permanent residence for three years can be listed as empty by local authorities, with owners informed. If no response is given within two months, the property is transferred to the Rural Council — for sale or gratuitous transfer.

Open air restaurant

By Olga Tkachevskaya

Open air restaurant 3.5km long for Republican Dazhynki-2012 Festival of Rural Workers in Gorki

200 organisations are involved in the annual holiday, with public catering a major priority: 12,000 seats are being brought in for the event. "It'll be like a huge open air restaurant, with people able to eat whatever they wish; the range of food on offer will be extremely diverse," notes Oleg Buyanov, the Head of the Mogilev Regional Executive Committee's Trade and Service Department.

The Republican Festival of Rural Workers in Gorki will bring together numerous guests from all over the country, so good organisation is essential — including the provision of roadside services. According to Mr. Buyanov, trade sites are to open along all the roads leading to Gorki (open day and night). As well as traditional shops, many kiosks will be selling ice-cream, water and souvenirs. Meanwhile, garages will offer their services to car owners.

Visitors will receive a card of information to act as a guide for the event, although Mr. Buyanov notes that its distribution is still being discussed.

Along roads of distant war

Seven tourist routes developed to mark 200th anniversary of 1812 war in Minsk Region

There are many memorable places connected with the Napoleonic invasion of the Minsk Region, including Brilevskoe field, where Napoleon's troops crossed the Berezina River and fought the Russian army.

There are many sites associated with those days around Borisov, which was occupied by the French at the end of June, 1812. Fighting took place in November, between the Russian 3rd Western Army and Napoleon's troops, for possession of Borisov and the bridge over the River Berezina; the city was destroyed and burnt, with Russian troops causing significant damage to the French army during its crossing of the Berezina.

Tourists can visit the sights of the Borisov District, and Borisov's Local History Museum. The route *Known-Unknown Borisov* includes a visit to the castle, a concert of organ music in the Catholic Church, a reconstruction of war events, and a sightseeing tour along the old Smolensk road — *The War of 1812* and *The Fighting Died Down Here Long Ago*, following in the steps of the 1903 military and historical expedition.