

Beautiful ideas being implemented well

Smolevichi launching as satellite town of Minsk

By Boris Mikhalev

A state programme to construct residential districts

the population to rise to 38,000 by 2020 and 64,000 by 2030 (up from today's 16,000).

for development is expected, and there're intentions to fulfil state programmes in tight-term terms.

neighbouring areas are being fully developed. The public centre's facilities will include a business centre (with hotel

Minsk families and, in Q3, a large building is to be built for Smolevichi residents. In addition, the central part of

railway line.

The package of measures should improve town infrastructure and the residential environment, allowing people to enjoy the same standards as are found in Minsk — for water quality, heating and drainage, modern communication, electricity and gas supply and waste collection and processing. To improve air quality, industrial and agricultural facilities are to shift outside of the town. Meanwhile, a natural recreational zone is to be developed along the Plisa River.

Industrial plants will be located in the South-West, joining some existing enterprises, and a new industrial zone is planned for the Smolevichi-Plisa road. The Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park aims to attract high-tech firms and will be unique in Belarus, offering the ultimate in business convenience; logistics centres, hotel accommodation and office space, in addition to financial premises and scientific labs are planned. Enterprises specialising in electronics, bio-medicine and machine building are sought for the site, which is expected to have around \$5.6bn injected into its infrastructure over the coming 10-15 years.

Few can argue that the plans are impressive. Soon, the town will be enjoying a modern, convenient and harmonious environment, which will only grow more beautiful with time. Innovative ideas are ready for implementation.



At the construction site in Smolevichi



First residential building for Minsk residents to be built in satellite town of Smolevichi, following general plan, by late 2013

for Minsk citizens in satellite towns, and to shift major industrial facilities outside the capital, is bringing development to Smolevichi, unveiling new possibilities. The scale of work planned is tremendous, utterly changing the face of Smolevichi. Work has begun to bring the town facilities rivalling those of the capital.

The skyline of the town will feature a mix of low and high-rise buildings, enabling

No doubt, industrial plants, business centres, entertainment and trading facilities and administrative buildings will soon be attracted, as Smolevichi is just 38km from the capital, with two major roads passing nearby. In addition, it has a railway, a national airport and wonderful countryside, making it a beautiful and convenient place to live. As Smolevichi District Executive Committee notes, incredible impetus

The integral town-building idea includes a new residential district designed to blend with the existing environment. A public centre is to launch close to the new town square (near the Smolevichi water reservoir) while recreational and sporting zones are also to appear. Work began last year, with the construction of a football stadium and a site for cultural events. In 2013, a ski-roller track is to be laid, while a stadium and

and car park), a museum, a restaurant, cafes and bars, a cinema and a leisure complex featuring a swimming pool, sauna and bowling alley.

The low rise North-Western residential district (near the village of Lipki, on the road leading to Zhodino) will feature all necessary infrastructure: schools, kindergartens, shops, cultural and communal facilities and local services. A nine-storey building will be housing 142

town will undergo gradual reconstruction.

Naturally, transport infrastructure will be vital. The Minsk-Smolevichi road is to gain four lanes while a new flyover crossroads is to be built over Magistralnaya Street. A wide main road will connect the satellite district with the new public centre and Smolevichi's old centre while a semi ring road will allow traffic to flow freely. The road will also pass over the

There's always a choice

Cheaper to stay at hotels in Belarusian countryside

By Yuri Chernyakevich

Weekends are a time for us to travel into the countryside or to our regional centres, to admire the beauty of nature or to take part in cultural or sporting activities. Of course, accommodation is essential and it's good to book in advance. Unsurprisingly, it's cheaper to stay in hotels and guesthouses located further away from main cities.

The Gomel Hotel offers a single room sleeping two people at a cost of Br200-390 thousand per person, while Nadzeya Hotel in Gomel is ready to accommodate guests for Br170-340 thousand. The Oktyabrskaya Hotel suggests

a room for Br300 thousand while Grodno's Tourist Hotel can provide a similar room for Br280-315 thousand. The city's smart Semashko Hotel is ready to welcome visitors for Br660-690m thousand. Meanwhile, Grodno's Neman Hotel charges Br670 thousand.

Brest's Bug Hotel offers a similar room for Br280-355 thousand while the Pyat Kolets Hotel charges a modest Br266 thousand. Other Brest hotels offer similar prices. The Vesta Hotel can provide a double room for Br372-390 thousand while Brest's pricier Belarus Hotel charges Br517-611 thousand.

In Mogilev, tourists can stay at the Gubernskaya Hotel,

although not everyone may like its prices: perhaps only Russian governors. A double room costs Br651-740 thousand per person. For those on a budget, the Mogilev Hotel may be the ticket, charging just Br250-370 thousand.

Hotel prices in Vitebsk are similar, with a double room costing up to Br320 thousand at the Zolotoi Telenok Hotel; the Vetraz Hotel offers rooms for Br390-580 thousand.

If you decide to admire Minsk's sights, you may need to pay Br583 thousand for a double room in Zaslavl. Famous Nesvizh, where the noble Radziwill magnates of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania once lived, offers slightly cheaper prices;



Vetraz Hotel in Vitebsk

Nesvizh's Gorodeisky Falvarok offers rooms for Br380 thousand. The local hostel, with its communal facilities, charges

just Br209 thousand.

Prices are much lower in the district centres. For example, the Vitebsk Region's

Glubokoe (hometown of Pavel Sukhoi, Yezep Drozdovich and Ignaty Buinitsky) offers a double room for Br159-228 thousand while the Brest Region's ancient Pinsk (boasting interesting architectural monuments) charges a very modest Br124 thousand at the Aelita Hotel. Pinsk's Volna's is only a little more expensive, charging Br170 thousand.

Slonim's Albertin Hotel (in the Grodno Region) costs Br144 thousand for a double. At the Besed Hotel in the Mogilev Region's Khotimsk, you can find a double room for Br43,740 per person. Meanwhile, the Vitebsk Region's Verkhnedvinsk charges a modest Br52,000 per person.