

From 2020 Åfjord municipality will merge with Roan municipality. On this page you will find general information about the process.

What is the municipal reform?

The merging of Roan and Åfjord is part of a national reform. The goal is to give better and more equal services to the inhabitants. The idea is that this can be achieved by pulling the expertise from the current smaller municipalities together. Thus creating synergies for the benefits for the inhabitants. More colleagues in one place, and higher capacity, is intended to allow for more stable work places. This can also make it easier to recruit skilled staff and personnel. Another aim is to streamline the process of planning and managing the future development of the municipalities. Thus the hope is that the planning will be more comprehensive and broader. The goal is to make it easier to manage for instance industry, land areas and environment. The national government also wanted to give the municipalities responsibility for other public tasks, which are currently handled by the broader regional governments. The purpose of this is to transfer some of the power down to the more local communities.

Why Roan + Åfjord?

Roan and Åfjord are geographical neighbours. We also cooperate on many levels and within many contexts. Our municipalities have many common interests, including:

- Develop and build public infrastructure. Like roads, internet connection and telecommunication
- Our coastal resources
- Other industries like tourism, agriculture and renewable energy/wind power

In addition to the advantages mentioned, a new and larger municipality should give us more external political influence towards broader regional and national authorities. It is also easier for local companies to cooperate and find common venues. For instance to exchange knowledge through more organised forums, or be part of bigger marketing strategies.

How is the local process organised?

The bi-municipal common political board "Fellesnemnda", as mentioned above, is led by Åfjord mayor Vibeke Stjern. The administrative project leader of the merger process is Per Johansen. He is also chief municipal executive in Åfjord municipality. His counterpart in Roan, Roy-Bjarne Hemmingsen, is in charge of the internal process in Roan municipality. Within the municipalities, a lot of work goes on in the local organisations. The current municipalities are to be officially discontinued at January 1, 2020. Towards that date, the organisations will be planning for their future management. That will demand a lot of preparation for the changes.

The name debate

There was an ongoing debate about the future name of the new municipality. The inhabitants were invited to suggest names. A professional local board, consisting of experts on local history, chose

three of them. The candidate names were Bjørnør, Nord-Fosen and Åfjord. Then 500 inhabitants in Roan and Åfjord were randomly contacted through an opinion poll by telephone. That was conducted by a professional poll institute. That gave the inhabitants the opportunity to have their say about what the name should be. The results showed most people preferred the names Bjørnør or Åfjord.

After taking the outcome of the poll into consideration, the professional board then advised the name to be Åfjord. The advise was taken to the common political board, "Fellesnemnda", which consists of a number of elected representatives of the two local governments. The political board "Fellesnemnda" went against the advise, and wanted the name to be Bjørnør. This advise was sent to the two local elected governments in the municipalities.

The local elected governments made their decisions on October 26, 2017. In Åfjord the preferred name was «Åfjord». In Roan the preferred name was «Roan». Since the municipalities did not reach an agreement on the name, the decision was finally decided by the national government of Norway. They decided that the name will be «Åfjord». The new municipality will use the official shield of Roan municipality.

Do you have a question or other input?

- Send e-mail to postmottak@afjord.kommune.no
- Send letter to Åfjord kommune, Rådhuset, Øvre Årnes 7, 7170 Åfjord
- Call Åfjord kommune, servicetorget, on telephone 72 53 23 00