

Hello,

This letter is aimed for everyone with a relation to the villages in and surrounding Yttermalung and Malungs finnmark: permanent residence; owners of holiday homes; businesses; organisations; recent arrivals and returning visitors.

Samhällsförening för Yttermalung och Malungs finnmark

The community based organisation Samhällsföreningen för Yttermalung och Malungs finnmark (SYMF) was founded in April 2012. SYMF is a result of a number of meetings where villagers have met to discuss the need for services that can sustain the local community in the region.

The project 'Flytta till Yttermalung och Malungs finnmark' triggered the initial discussions in December 2011. The project, which is partly financed by Leader Dalälven, wants to enable families to move to the area. The aim is to increase the number of students in the local school (Yttermalungs skola) which is currently under threat to be closed down. The situation with the local school is not an isolated incident. For the past 20 years a number of political and socio-economic decisions on a local, regional and national level, have had a negative impact on the Swedish countryside. The consequences of the decisions are noticeable in the southern parts of the municipality of Malung-Sälen: the local shop has closed down; the train is no longer running; and the number of buses that stop throughout the villages have decreased.

SYMF's mission is to work for a countryside where the service offerings meet the basic needs of the inhabitants. So far SYMF has created the webpage www.yttermalung.com where individuals, companies and organisations can advertise their service offerings and activities. A working group for the school has been established. Parents and teachers (both current and present) meet on a regular basis to analyse the national teaching plan and examine ways that can strengthen the school. A meeting with politicians and villagers is planned to take place in the autumn. Another working group is looking at how the local libraries can be used to increase the cultural offerings in the region. SYMF is collaborating with Studieförbundet Vuxenskolan and Länsstyrelsens regional development initiative 8 Bygder in order to reach as many stakeholders as possible.

Membership

Membership in SYMF is open to individuals, organisations and companies that have a relation to the region Yttermalung and Malungs finnmark. We welcome everyone to become a member, both permanent residence and those with a holiday home. Together we can engage stakeholders, the municipality and regional authorities in dialogue and by doing so lay the foundation for a region with an acceptable service offering.

The membership fee is 50 kronor/annum and is payable via bankgiro 243-6624 (write down name and address as reference). The fee can also be paid directly to SYMFs treasurer Gunbritt Wallgren (gunbrittwallgren@telia.com/0280-60015). Membership is free to youth under the age of 18 who can register membership by e-mailing the treasurer. SYMF is a non-profit organisation. The membership fee is used to finance bank charges, the web page www.yttermalung.com (server and webhotel), rent of meeting space and fika for participants.