



The origins of the Heineking company go back to the beginning of the 19th century. The photo shows the headquarters in Bohnhorst.  
Photos: Büsching

Bohnhorst/Warmsen 23.01.2020 by Annika Büsching

## Heineking closes at the end of the year

*No succession, no prospects: Warmsen municipality loses its local suppliers*

**Bad news for the community of Warmsen: The Heineking family is closing their supermarkets in Bohnhorst and Warmsen at the end of the year. This was confirmed by company boss Ernst-August Heineking (65) and his brother Ulrich Heineking (58), who runs the Warmsen branch, on request. The closure marks the end of almost 200 years of company history, which originated in Bohnhorst.**

The brothers, who are the fifth generation of the family to run the company, explained that they had made the decision to discontinue the business for several reasons: no successor on the board of directors, difficulties in recruiting staff, falling margins, changes in customers' purchasing behaviour and excessive bureaucracy.

"All in all, the perspective is simply missing. You can't advise anyone in good conscience to take on this job," said Ulrich Heineking. "Running a company of this size puts a great deal of strain on all members of the family. Our children have found their bearings elsewhere, and we have a lot of understanding for that," emphasized the 58-year-old.



The branch at the Warmsen cross-town link was opened in 1981. Photo: Büsching

### **Decision was a difficult one**

And yet the final decision was a difficult one, given its implications. From 2021 onwards, there will be no more local suppliers in the municipal area; and the six rolling supermarkets - the "Frischemobile" are also on the move beyond the district border - will no longer be in operation. The origins of the company date back to 1826 and the establishment of the Nordbrink grocery store in Bohnhorst, which grew steadily in the following century. Meanwhile, in the community of Raddestorf, the Heineking family supplied the people with goods from the pannier. In 1950, Ernst Heineking from Jenhorst married Liesbeth Nordbrink from Bohnhorst. From then on, mobile and stationary shops lay in one family and developed magnificently. In 1981 the branch in Warmsen was opened. 1989 Ernst-August Heineking took over the management of the company.

About 30 employees, employed full and part time, are affected by the closure. You were informed about the plans last week, said Ulrich Heineking. "We deliberately communicated our decision early on. We want to get the closure clean and honest." What will then happen to the company's own real estate is still open. The headquarters in Bohnhorst is also a residential building. The branch in Warmsen is located directly in the centre of town on the main thoroughfare.

### **Continuation of the bad news**

The closure of the two small supermarkets is one of a series of bad news for the community of Warmsen: shortly before, the fashion house „Otto“ in Bohnhorst had announced its closure. A few weeks ago the Raiffeisen market, the „Genossenschaft“, closed its doors in Warmsen. At the end of 2018, the „Sparkasse“ (bank house) had closed its Warmsen branch.

"This is not a good development, of course. Warmsen has always had a great infrastructure and is now facing a big challenge", mayor Karsten Heineking (CDU) told to the HARKE. Nevertheless, one has to be grateful to the Heineking family for keeping up the local shopping facilities for such a long time. Even Warmsen, he said, could not escape the development that other places have long since gone through. "We must now see how we deal with this," Heineking continued.