

## **IDP Bushmans River Mouth**

The IDP for Bushmans cannot be looked at independently of Harmony Park, Marcelle, Kenton on Sea or Ekhuphumuleni as most of the services are shared especially water. It needs to be an integrated plan. The priorities are reasonably aligned to those as laid out in the draft document but there are some serious omissions in the planning of water and sewerage which need to be integrated. The planning should also take into account the Spatial Development Framework (SDF) and there does not appear to be any cognizance taken of the SDF in the IDP.

### **1) Water**

Water is the most important issue. The expanded RO works at BRM ACWB should solve immediate water requirements as far as production of clean potable water is concerned but there are serious problems with water storage capacity. This should be regarded as urgent.

- a) The water storage capacity at peak demand is approximately 36 hours. In non peak demand periods this is extended to 72 to 84 hours or 3 to 3.5 days. If there is a power outage or a serious fault with pumps this is the maximum period that would be allowed before supply would be interrupted.
- b) The current storage capacity is 4 MI which has not been upgraded for 17 years. In the intervening period the population/demand has approximately quadrupled. With more developments and RDP houses planned over the next five years the situation will only become more critical.
- c) A minimum additional storage of 5 MI needs to be built to enable water supply to go uninterrupted over critical demand periods.
- d) An investigation of expansion of the Diaz well field needs to be planned, possible abstraction of water from the "Vlei" area behind the fore dune at BRM and other sources of poorer grade water which could always be treated by the ACWB plant.
- e) An expanded, modernized sewerage treatment plant could also be used as feedstock to alleviate the water shortage problems.

### **2) Sewerage**

The sewerage system needs to be upgraded and expanded. Sewerage is leaking into the Bushmans and Kariega Rivers especially during the season and during periods of high rainfall. There is over flow of the conservancy tank at Rivers Bend, the Caravan Park and from the sewerage works occasionally. All of these problems pose a serious health risk. The areas most severely affected are along the river frontage along the tow paths. A water borne sewerage system needs to be engineered to accommodate all of the river front properties and then expanded to the rest of the area over time in a systematic planned method.

- a) Up grade and modernization of existing sewerage works at BRM.
- b) Installation of water borne sewerage pipes and construction of conservancy tanks with necessary pumping facilities along the all the river tow paths.
- c) Planned integrated water borne sewerage system for KOS and BRM in a phased approach over time.
- d) Re engineering of conservancy tanks at Caravan Park and Rivers Bend.

### **3) Waste Management**

There is some doubt as to the legitimacy of both the Kenton and Bushman's refuse disposal sites. The position of the Kenton dump site is far from ideal as it is positioned near the Ekphumuleni township and in a ravine leading down to the river. A long term correctly planned and licensed waste site needs to be built to serve the whole community of Harmony Park, BRM, Marcelle, Kenton on Sea or Ekphumuleni into the future. If this is not done now the on going problems and associated health risk will continue until a crisis situation is reached.

There is some urgency that these plans are made now with the knowledge of expanded developments and RDP houses. There has to be input from new developments into the infrastructure which is already suffering under an increased burden.

#### **4) Roads**

RDP houses have been built in Klipfontein/Harmony Park without the necessary road infrastructure. The roads in the area are impassible by normal road going vehicles. There are more sites being developed without any suitable roads being built in advance. Normally the infrastructure is put in place in advance of housing.

#### **5) Storm water**

There are serious storm water problems in Marcelle with inadequate drainage which results in several houses being flooded every time there is a storm. The drainage system into the Klip River needs to be developed. There are also problems with storm water drainage in BRM where some houses get flooded in times of storms. The drainage has not kept pace with development and with new developments proposed in the area the problem will be increased.

Planning of storm water over the whole area of Harmony Park, Marcelle and BRM needs to be looked at and implemented.

#### **6) Rivers**

The Kariega and Bushmans rivers are the most important factors in the recreational residential tourism in the area. This is what the sustainability of the area depends on and there is gross neglect in terms of control and planning with regard to the rivers.

The tow paths and access paths are in a sorry state. There is gross siltation in both estuaries and a serious possibility of these becoming blind or semi blind which would totally upset the sustainability and or biodiversity. There is encroachment by residents, illegal jetties and slipways and no control with more and more boats coming on to the river. A plan for control of numbers in the peak season needs to be looked at because with more and more developments there is not more and more river to go around. In fact there is less and less river because of siltation. One of the main sources of the food chain, the mud prawn *Upogebia africana*, is under stress from ingress of sterile marine sand and possibly over exploitation.

#### **7) Spatial Development framework**

The Setplan and other work done is a reasonable starting point but there needs to be a high resolution (1:5,000), colour, aerial photography survey done of Ndlambe. Buffalo City and NMM have both undertaken this type of survey to use as the basis and a shot in time for their SDF. The company which does the surveys is based in Port Alfred and overseas funding for the project and training of staff and capacity building in that regard can all be done locally. There is a very good training facility in Grahamstown which would enable Ndlambe to process their own GIS (Geographic Information System) without having to employ consultants from the Transvaal.

The advantage of undertaking an aerial survey gives both a shot in time and serves as a basis for all other components of the GIS. The work already done in Setplan can be added, refined and expanded. If and when further planning is required or if it is required that an analysis of change is required a second survey can be done of those particular areas. The whole concept lends itself to good planning and sustainable development.

#### **8) Picnic Area and Woody Cape Reserve**

The area which is between the high water mark and the road leading to the beach is a recreational area where the ownership is in dispute. This needs to be resolved. To further this the whole of the Woody Cape Reserve from Diaz Cross to Bushmans River Mouth should come under Ndlambe control/ownership as is it outside of the San Parks area and out on a limb. It came under control by Sanparks from Cape Nature Conservation. It is an asset, tourist destination and forms an important part of the Albany Coast Water Board supply area. San Parks have refused further development of the Diaz well field.