



## **BUSHMAN'S RIVER MOUTH / BOESMANSRIVERMOND**

Ratepayers' Association / Belastingbetalersvereniging Ward 3 / Wyk 3  
P.O.Box 50, Boesmansrivermond, 6190

29 Tecoma Street  
Berea,  
East London  
5241

20th September, 2006

### **Re Cultural Village, Marseille, Bushmans River Mouth Alexandria District**

Dear Mr. Mpulu,

We are most concerned as to the Cultural Village proposal as it stands at present and what was presented at the Kenton-on-Sea, Town Hall.

- 1) The Cultural Village has not appeared on the IDP of/or on the Ward 3, Ward committee agenda. It is Ward 3 where the proposed Cultural Village is to be situated.
- 2) The business plan presented at Kenton was only a schedule of expenses, "DEAT drawdown", current and future, with R 487,500 "expended" already and that was without the site having been finalized.
- 3) There is no detail of what is envisaged or how it will possibly become sustainable with a schedule of possible costs and income. The only things that can be gathered from the document is that there will be a site clearance, sewerage and water reticulation, parking, 8 rondavels, a restaurant, kitchen, cultural heritage museums reception, and ablutions, 6 curio shops and landscaping. There is no chance that this could be sustainable as there is no captive market or economic plan attached.
- 4) We suggest that a proper economic business plan be introduced before any further expenditure is made. i) A fueling stop service station would be a starting point where motorists could become part of the captive market. There is no refueling facility along the R72 between Alexandria and Port Alfred. There is resistance to a fuel station at Kenton and it would be easy to persuade the fuel company that it be incorporated into the Cultural Village Complex. ii) Attached to the fuel stop could be a service station shop. iii) A Natural History park with indigenous plants could be part of the landscaping and plants for sale could be added. The containers for the plants could be part of the curio business. iv) Space for manufacture of pots, beadwork, clothing etc. There is a need for this already. v) A change of location of the local tourism and information office with a link to tours of Diaz Cross, a unique part of history in the country, continent and the world. vi) Possibly, the Bushman's River Post Office could be incorporated as it would be more central to serve all of the people and be an anchor. vii) A depot for courier services etc
- 5) Consultation with the Bushman's Kenton Chamber of Business entered into so that useful input as to local business needs and opportunities can be gained.
- 6) A "greening" of the area needs to be made an important, first part of the project as it is in an exposed area and needs to have a sheltered, accommodating feel about it. Trees need time to grow and will form an important wind break.
- 7) An emphasis needs to be made on employment opportunities, job creation, synergy and economic sustainability. Nothing appears to have been considered in this regard and it should be in the fore front of the business plan.

We hope and trust that our observations and suggestions are considered to ensure that this project is a success before any further expenditure is made. We are available to support the project in any way that we can.

Yours faithfully,

Johann Smuts

Chairman Bushman's River Mouth Ratepayers Association.

Cc a) DEAET Mr Zide b) Ms Manzi Cacadu Municipality c) MM Ndlambe Municipality

Committee: Johann Smuts (Chairman), Eric Sutton (Vice Chairman), Wendy Grove (Secretary), Charles Sprong (Treasurer), CJF Botha, Schalk Kotze, Dennis Laubscher, Jimmy van Rensberg, Matt Mullins, Ian Smith

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