



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

Ratepayers' Organisation / Belastingbetalersvereniging  
P.O.Box 90, Boesmansriviermond, 6190

19 February 2009

The Municipal Manager  
Ndlambe Municipality  
Causeway  
Port Alfred

By Fax (046) 6242669 and  
Email: [portalfred@ndlambe.co.za](mailto:portalfred@ndlambe.co.za)

BY HAND

Dear Sir

### **UPGRADING OF BUSHMAN'S RIVER MOUTH**

The Bushman's River Mouth Ratepayers' Association requests that the following matters be included in a budget, whichever portfolio may be responsible for the particular matter. However, item 2 is of such serious and urgent nature that it cannot wait for a new budget and needs to be addressed without delay. We address a separate letter to you regarding item 2.

Please take those issues from the list below that you can include in the budgets for the various municipal portfolios and advise us which items you included in those or any other budgets on our behalf.

#### **1. Construct a slipway / launching pad at Riversbend.**

The motivation for the slipway at Riversbend will compliment any Disaster Management Plan for emergency evacuation as well as alleviating the congestion at the Bushman's slipway. Launching at that point in Riversbend will enhance the "No wake zone" that people ignore and by lessening the boat traffic on that stretch of river (between the launch

site and the bridge) will in turn will assist in the protection of the river bank. Also more boats, more income generated – not only for whoever receives the boat licence fees but the people running the Skippers Competency courses, boat compliance businesses, etc. All of the above will in turn, help to generate, albeit low volume, additional work opportunities for the local community.

## 2. **Sewage URGENT**

Save for regular clearing of all the conservancy tanks which really is self-evident, it has come to our attention that the sewage plant of the Municipality is non-functional. Inspections by us on 14 and 17 February 2009 showed that the aerator and chlorinator units are broken. When sewage is added to the plant, it overflows from the ponds and lands in the surrounding area from where it flows down a valley towards Nature's Landing and eventually into the Bushman's River, especially when it rains. This problem needs to be addressed immediately and in any event is a contravention of the provisions of Section 19(1) of the National Water Act, 36 of 1998 and Section 28 of the National Environmental Act, 107 of 1988. Both these contraventions are criminal offences punishable by imprisonment of 5 years.

We have advised your office on numerous occasions that other sewage conservancy tanks regularly overflow in the town. Sewage has detrimental effects on water sources and human health. Sewage seeps into the underground water and if these aquifers do not contain relatively impermeable calcrete layers in the upper horizons, raw sewage out of control would pollute potentially potable water in the aquifers, and would necessitate the removal of the deleterious elements which could cause illnesses. Allowing raw sewage to flow into water has a detrimental effect on human, aquatic, and bird life. As regards to humans it can lead to skin, ear, throat and nose infections and possible intestinal disorders. As regards bird life, especially the birds that are waders or feed on aquatic life, spillage of sewage can kill such birds.

Raw sewage in water is highly dangerous and can cause illnesses such as typhoid, cholera, dysentery, cryptosporidium oocysts and giardia cysts. Unless the sewage in the water is treated, it can lead to the formation of cyano bacteria in the water which is an

extremely toxic algae which can kill off both aquatic and bird life. It can also be very dangerous and in fact life threatening to humans.

We as ratepayers we would like to be assured that the water born sewage systems in the newly developed areas have affective pumping systems, to take sewage to a correctly maintained workable sewage treatment plant of sufficient capacity before any building on new developments is allowed to commence.

### 3. **Flooding / Storm water to be curtailed**

There are various flooding problems due to the fact that the drainage pipes are either too small or run up-hill or are non-existent. We are prepared to place this on a map to indicate the problems but do not wish to become involved in the exercise unless we are assured that the matter will receive attention. There bigger pipes required in various places to avoid damming up in heavy rainfall times. We all know the trouble areas in the Village centre (Kokkewiet and Ocean Drive and Park and River Road) and we can point out a couple near Alexander Road (in front of Johnny Chowles' house and opposite Kiewiet, running down into Main street).

Several residents are concerned about the storm water control measures with the new developments taking place in BRM village. A proper storm water plan down stream of the proposed developments was supposed to take place. This has not happened and it is possible that the safety of all of the houses below the developments could be compromised. The area affected is from Salie/Umthati Streets down through Hertzog Street to the lower part of Main Street, Park Street and River Road.

Ndlambe Municipality was alerted to the possible problem and it was raised in the original proposal for the development. It was understood that there would be a storm water control plan down stream of the vlei. It is now apparent that the storm water is lead into the existing drainage without any provision for the upgrading of the down stream storm water control.

The essence of the concern is that a 750mm storm water pipe leads into a system that has only a 600mm storm water pipe. The Village area can barely cope with the storm

water at present and the new developments in Bushman's, Marcelle and Klipfontein will all contribute to far greater runoff which is an increasing and real threat to the Village.

We would appreciate an intervention to see that the storm water control plan is introduced prior to any of the developments or proposed developments are completed. The risk to the municipality would be unacceptable as it would open up a case of liability if the Village was flooded. A current case in point is the St Francis Bay problem which is being investigated after the fact.

We are willing to point out the constraints of the system and possible problems. Flooding at some residences occur from time to time and curbstones are necessary at these homes. The problem areas can be pointed out.

A large number of manhole covers and water junction covers/ storm water grids need replacement. Manhole covers and water junction covers have been a problem for years. A couple of years ago a complete new "set" of water covers were installed but were, in our opinion, of such inferior quality that problems were being observed as the covers were being laid. With the increased building in the new extensions, very heavy vehicles are driving over these covers and, because they were not designed for the weight, the covers collapse. Also when we had the heavy rains the foundations of these "holes" moved and the covers did not fit. The problem has just become worse and more people are now aware of it because of the number of collapsed covers on just about all roads in the Village and Riversbend. In particular the grating at the corner of Dave Nicols/ Anton McClean and the Dutch Reformed Church has been in a very dangerous state for about 12 months and was made totally unsafe with the flood/storm damage last September.

#### 4. **Pot holes and roads / signs**

Pot holes need PROPER repairs and resurfacing of all major roads has become necessary. Without proper maintenance the Village is deteriorating and the end result would be a very high cost of replacement when all has broken down. The practice of filling pot holes with gravel and tar without adequately preparing the holes before filling them, results in the new material just being washed away by rain and the holes reappearing within a short space of time.

Road signs generally and road markings are to be upgraded, painted and repaired. There are a number of missing street names, especially in Riversbend.

5. **Upgrading and maintenance of all four public toilets.**

With a future goal of a Blue Flag Beach for Bushman's it would be essential to get the local community buy-in and to maintain public buildings. When locals and holiday visitors are spending time at the beach the provision of good clean toilets are of the utmost importance. Also work creation and pride in the Village environment is of utmost importance. All toilets often overflow and the run-off is into the River. Revamping of the ablution blocks must be undertaken with easy maintenance in mind such as the use of concrete slabs on a slope instead of wash basins.

6. **Existing slipway and jetty deterioration**

The existing slipway is to be made functional by upgrading the road, pedestrian path, painting yellow lines and erecting traffic signs.

The jetty needs to be restored and proper signs regarding use, erected to avoid all and sundry to moor at the jetty.

7. **Rubbish bins**

Additional rubbish bins are to be erected on the river path way and at the beaches. (We require 18 swing rubbish bins – the location for these will be indicated when we are advised that the bins are available).

8 **Beach access area**

The booms and general appearance of the car park at the beach need to be restored.

9. **Wooden steps**

The “wooden” steps near the Water Board are unstable and need proper anchoring. If someone falls off these because of its insecure state, the municipality will be held liable for damages suffered by a person injured as a result of the insecurity of the steps. The cost to secure them should be far less than a claim by an injured person.

10 **Tennis courts**

The tennis courts need upgrading and maintenance. The alternative is to lease them to the Association at a NOMINAL FEE so that we can upgrade and maintain the courts ourselves.

11. **Maintenance**

We would request that a team of labourers be supplied to the Association on a fortnightly basis for a day at a time to assist with cleaning the town and pathways.

Your kind and urgent attention to the above issues will be appreciated. We also look forward to discuss these issues with all or any of the directors and yourself at our next committee meeting which is to be held on 9 April 2009 at 09h00 at 14 Krogscheepers Street, Bushman's River Mouth. You and the directors are cordially invited to attend the meeting.

You are welcome to correspond with us at writer's email address which is [wepener@law.co.za](mailto:wepener@law.co.za).

Yours faithfully

Lötter Wepener  
(Chairman)

CC Mr Richard Pote, Deputy Director: Infrastructural Development – [rpote@ndlambe.co.za](mailto:rpote@ndlambe.co.za)

CC Mr Fanie Fouche, Environmental Conservation Manager - [ffouche@ndlambe.co.za](mailto:ffouche@ndlambe.co.za)

CC Mrs M Mike – Councilor Ward 3 c/o Municipal Office Kenton-on-Sea.