



BUSHMAN'S RIVER MOUTH / BOESMANSRIVIERMOND

Ratepayers' Organisation / Belastingbetalersorganisasie
(BRRAG)

P.O.Box / Posbus 90, Boesmansriviermond, 6190

Website: www.brm.org.za/

16 April 2010

The Municipal Manager
Ndlambe
P O Box 13
PORT ALFRED
6170

rdumezweni@ndlambe.co.za

BY HAND

Dear Sir

MAINTENANCE OF AND IN BUSHMAN'S RIVER MOUTH – OUR LETTER OF 7 JANUARY 2010.

I, once again, need to deal with a number of issues in relation to Bushman's River Mouth that are still outstanding and which are matters of concern to the ratepayers of the Bushman's River Mouth. Most, if not all of the items I will refer to herein have been referred to the acting Municipal Manager since early 2009 and various other officials including directors of different departments, for attention. I referred all of these issues to you in a letter dated 7 January 2010. Very little of our concerns have been addressed to date.

Sewage (URGENT)

- 1.1. We are pleased to note that there is some development regarding the sewage plant in Marselle. However, in line with the approach to accept assistance from the community,

“We make the difference / Ons maak die verskil”

Executive Committee: Lötter Wepener (Chairperson)(0825524714 / wepener@law.co.za), Sheila Swanepoel (Vice); Wendy Grove (Secretary); Fanie Venter (Treasurer); Stompie Bellingan; Corris Krogscheepers; Ernst Linström, Pieter Mouton, Andrew Murray, Ian Smith, Bill Northrop, Anton Vosloo.

Subcommittee members: Peter Bowen, Val Bowen, Dave Chalmers, John Charter, Dirk Meiring, Annabelle Northrop, Roy Somers

we urgently require the technical engineer's report so that we can evaluate it. If it is available in electronic form, kindly urgently supply us therewith. We would also like to know if a steering committee will be appointed to which committee we can appoint a representative. We are also waiting to hear if an EIA was done for the pump station at Klipfontein and if so, if an electronic copy of the report is available. It is difficult to assess the process (and we have been invited to attend the tender process on 28 April 2010) without these documents. Attendance thereat will be meaningless without us being able to assess that which is being tendered for. PLEASE RESPOND TO THIS REQUEST AS A MATTER OF URGENCY.

- 1.2. Nevertheless, the sewage plant is not maintained at all in that the bar screens are not raked regularly and dry rakings are not transported to landfill on a daily basis; the grid channels are not scraped clean on a regular basis; the Parshall Flume is not washed on a daily basis; the bio-filter is not washed to improve the hydraulic distribution of sewage over the filter; the anaerobic pond is not drained and the sludge is not removed to drying beds to ensure that the depth is maintained to promote the anaerobic process; the mechanical plant is not maintained; training of employees is urgently required.

Flooding / Storm Water to be curtailed

- 1.3. There are various flooding problems due to the fact that the drainage pipes are either too small or run uphill 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 are bigger pipes required in various places to avoid damming up of heavy rainfall at times. We all know the troubled areas in the Village Centre (Kokkewiet and Ocean Drive and Park and River Road) and we can point out a few near Alexander Road (in front of Johnny Charles' house and opposite Kiewiet running down into Main Street).
- 1.4. Several residents are concerned about the storm water control measures with the new developments taking place BRM Village. A proper storm water plan downstream of the proposed developments was supposed to be in place. This has not happened and it is possible that the safety of all 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.

- 1.5. Ndlambe Municipality was alerted to the possible problem and it was raised in the original proposal for the new development. It was understood that there would be a storm water control plan downstream of the vlei. It is now apparent that the storm water is led into the existing drainage without any provision for the upgrading of the downstream storm water control.
- 1.6. The essence of the concern is that a 750 mm storm water pipe leads into a system that has only a 600 mm storm water pipe. The Village area can barely cope with the storm water at present and new developments in Bushman's, Marselle and Klipfontein will all contribute to a far greater run-off which is an increasing and real threat to the Village.
- 1.7. We would appreciate an intervention to see that a storm water control plan is introduced prior to any of the development or proposed development being completed. The risk to the municipality would be unacceptable as it would open up a case of liability if the Village was flooded.
- 1.8. We have offered to point out the constraints of the system and possible problems including the areas where flooding at some residences occur from time to time and where curb stones are necessary. We have had no response to this offer.

2. Manhole Covers

- 2.1. A large number of manhole covers and water junctions covers / storm water grids need replacement. Manhole covers and water junction covers have been a problem for years. A few years ago a complete new set of water covers was installed but they 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 and missing covers on just about all the roads in the Village and Riversbend.

- 2.2. After a request from Director Msiza, we supplied a list of the problem areas on 18 May 2009. We were advised that a quotation for the replacement of the covers was being awaited. Some of these covers have now collapsed and cause a serious danger to both persons and vehicles. (Instead of meeting a claim for damages when injury or damage is suffered as a result of this problem, we suggest that the replacement of the covers now be urgently attended to).
- 2.3. We suggest that covers that are bolted down be investigated as thieves are removing every piece of metal and copper that they can lay their hands on in our town.

3. Potholes and Road Signs

- 3.1. Many of the potholes in our town have, thankfully been attended to, albeit in an unprofessional manner. However, repairs and resurfacing of all major roads have 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 potholes 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 re-appearing within a short space of time. We supplied a document setting out the manner in which potholes should be repaired but it is apparent that our time was wasted when attempting to assist the municipality as the procedures contained in the document have been ignored. We again attach the document for your convenience. The damaged road in front of 14 Ocean Drive is particularly bad.
- 3.2. Road signs generally and road markings have largely been upgraded in the Village, painted and repaired, but the task was not completed and VIRTUALLY NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE IN RIVERSBEND. Some humps have not been painted and there are a number of missing street / road signs in both the Village and Riversbend.
- 3.3. The following street names have still not been replaced:-
 - 3.3.1. Pier Street at Main Street;
 - 3.3.2. Ocean Drive at the toilets;
 - 3.3.3. Louw Street.

3.4. The following road signs have not been attended to:-

3.4.1. warning signs at the various humps in town;

3.4.2. no parking signs in slipway and Duweltjieplein;

3.4.3. no parking signs for trailers that are being left all over town.

3.5 The verges in Riversbend have not been attended to for a considerable period of time.

The reserves that give access to the river are totally overgrown.

3.5. Mr. Corris Krogscheepers (tel 083 654 6160) is prepared to indicate all the shortcomings in this regard.

4. **Speed humps / encroachment**

4.1. We have been requested by residents to convey the need for speed humps on certain roads in the town. Holiday makers and children are at risk because of persons not adhering to speed limits – the roads are also too narrow to even allow it to be a 60 km per hour zone. Traffic calming measures would alleviate the problem. We request that the following speed humps be installed:-

4.1.1. Salie Street, which used to be dead end, now gives access to and from a new development. Salie Street is a narrow street and it was not built for heavy traffic. In addition, if a hump was to be erected somewhere close to the entrance of the old Village i.e. two humps in Salie Street, we believe that it would have a calming effect on the additional and heavier traffic;

4.1.2. With the increased traffic along Krogscheepers Street coming down Wit Street, it has become necessary to install a hump at the corners of Krogscheepers and Dorp Streets. It will also possibly be wise to install a further hump in Krogscheepers Street between the one requested at the intersection of Dorp Street and Main Road.

4.2. A second more complicated matter needs to be dealt with as it also includes the removal of a hedge that is encroaching far outside the erf boundaries and causing an obstruction. On the corner of River Road and Piers Street, where the bend occurs the

property on the western boundary has allowed a hedge to grow well over its boundaries and onto the public road. In River Road, the hedge takes up at least 1, 5 metres of the road and in Piers Street the hedge similarly takes up a portion of the road. As this is a dangerous bend for both traffic and pedestrians alike, we urge you to cause the hedge to be removed from the road. In addition, if speed humps are installed either side of the bend, the calming effect would have the desired result in that the danger caused by the hedge would be removed and vehicles can safely manoeuvre the corner at slower speeds. We attach a sketch of the latter proposal for your consideration, marked "H".

5. Upgrading and Maintenance of four public toilets (Urgent – once again)

- 5.1. During a meeting in April 2009, Director Mvulelwa acknowledged that there was some funding available and that he would attend to the repairs the four existing toilets. Nothing has been done to date.
- 5.2. As you are aware, BRRAG repaired the slipway toilet at its own cost during late November. We also employed a cleaner to service these during the holiday period for the benefit of ALL residents. We cannot fund all the municipal obligations and officially laid a complaint against director Mvulelwa for his failure to perform his duties and failure to comply with his undertakings to us. We required to be advised when the hearing would be and made ourselves available as witnesses at such a hearing. We have had NO RESPONSE to our complaint.
- 5.3. 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 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 / car park

We have, at our own cost upgraded the pedestrian path along the slipway road, the painting of yellow lines have been done by municipal employees but the erection of traffic signs

remains outstanding. We caused the jetty to be restored and proper signs erected regarding the use thereof to avoid all and sundry to moor at the jetty. However, the car park is becoming more and more user unfriendly. As you heard at our AGM, the car parks at other beaches within Ndlambe are all tarred and we request that a serious effort now be made to either tar, concrete or pave the car park surface as it either is too sandy for vehicles to use on the northern side or covered with sharp edged stones, making walking extremely difficult. Once the surface is attended to it will place us in a position to sweep it and remove excess sand if it is deposited on the car park. The sea car park is on the same condition and I deal with it below.

10. Beach Access Area (Urgent)

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

A large volume of sand has been deposited on this parking area and causes difficulties for vehicles to manoeuvre. The sand has now caused several vehicles to get stuck. There is no other parking space for beach access and this matter requires attention urgently.

10.1.2 During a meeting in April 2009, Director Mvulelwa undertook to have the stones in the area cleared and the car park separated from the beach and a boom installed to prevent cars from illegally driving onto the beach. To date, NOTHING has been done. The inaction of the director should also be the subject of disciplinary action against him.

11 Tennis Courts

11.1.1 The tennis courts need upgrading and maintenance. The alternative is to lease the courts to the Association at a nominal fee so that we can upgrade and maintain the courts ourselves.

11.1.2 During a meeting in April 2009, Councillor Mike undertook to approach Director Mali in order that a decision could be made to lease the tennis courts to BRRAG on more favourable terms than the R 300 per month suggested by director Mali as we will be spending thousands to repair and maintain municipal property. The alternative to all of the above is to sell the tennis courts to us so that the facility can be restored for use by the community. We have had no communication from Director Mali about the tennis courts

since that date. We remind you that you indicated at our AGM that a favourable lease for us is indeed in the cards. We are awaiting action so that we can commence to maintain the courts and the little building between the courts that is deteriorating drastically.

12 Maintenance

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

13 Traffic Control

- 13.1 We have had a number of complaints regard the absence of traffic control in our town. As examples, we mention that there are unlicensed all terrain vehicle or quad bikes and golf carts that are used on our public roads. There are also a number of motorbikes or scooters that are unlicensed and so used. It is not the duty of BRRAG to telephone every time a transgression occurs. We require better traffic police presence to stop unlicensed vehicles from being operated in our town. We have not noticed these vehicles in Port Alfred or Kenton and it appears to us that traffic officials are reluctant to act against the persons operating unlicensed vehicles in our town.
- 13.2 A cause for concern is that some of these vehicles are utilised by youngsters who are clearly not capable of properly handling the machines which they are using on public roads. That aside, no one should be permitted to operate unlicensed vehicles on public roads. Writer has mentioned this problem to Boysie in the past but there is no effective control over these transgressions. I do wish to mention that Julia reacted to an incident of an unlicensed quad bike during the past holiday – however, because there was no constant or regular presence of traffic officials, many of these illegal vehicles continued to operate freely in the town.
- 13.3 Once some persons are aware that certain quads / golf carts are allowed, they do not understand why all quads / carts can not be freely used in Bushman's. The problem is exacerbated every year with more and more of these vehicles arriving on the basis that others are "*permitted*" to use the vehicles freely in town. The quad vehicles are particularly noisy and were not manufactured for use on public roads in general.

13.3 We again request that steps be taken to enforce traffic legislation and to stop unlicensed vehicles and unlicensed persons from operating in Bushman's River Mouth.

14 **Disaster Management**

We experienced storm damage in 2008 and again, in 2009. It became apparent that there is no disaster management plan in place and undertakings were given to us that this important aspect will receive attention. We have not had any feedback regarding disaster management in our town.

15. **Complaint**

A municipal employee who is apparently the supervisor for our area has proved to be utterly unreliable. We recommend that disciplinary steps be taken against Mr. Ajah. We will also report this employee's unacceptable conduct to the performance audit committee. I refer to our complaint against Mr. Ajah of 8 April 2009, a copy of which is attached hereto. (We have had no feed back as to whether any steps were taken against the employee).

When writer arrived in Bushman's during the early part of December 2009, the town was in an untidy condition with grass not mowed, branches and garden refuse lying all over town and the town was generally in an unkempt condition. You will recall that I forwarded an email to you and other directors during early December complaining about the situation.

During December we had reason for concern regarding bad odours which were emanating from the reeds diagonally across from the river car park. Writer telephoned the municipal offices to report is to the health department. My contact details were taken and I was advised that the supervisor would contact me shortly. I was advised that the supervisor is Mr. Ajah. To date I have had no communication from Mr. Ajah regarding the call of the possible health problem referred to above. I took the trouble to obtain the cell number of Mr. Ajah and contacted him only to be advised that "I am not working. 'Phone the office". The vicious circle of phoning the office and Mr. Ajah is, of course, nothing other than a farce.

It appears to us that Mr. Ajah is not fit to be a supervisor and employee of the municipality. We require that disciplinary steps be taken against Mr. Ajah for his failure to perform his duties, his failure to respond to communications and his clear lack of ability. To this end, Mr. Krogscheepers and I are available as witnesses for a disciplinary hearing.

This paragraph must be read with paragraph 7 above.

16. Bylaws

On 6 January 2010 I requested Mr. Dredge to supply a copy of the Ndlambe bylaws regarding river control referred to by Mr. Fanie Fouche at various meetings, on his website. Mr. Dredge advised that he requested Mr. Fouche to forward a copy of the bylaws to writer. TO DATE THIS HAS NOT OCCURRED. KINDLY assist by directing Mr Fouche to supply us with a copy of the bylaws regarding the use of rivers, failing wich we will serve a notice under the Access to Information Act, which should be totally unnecessary.

17. Garden Refuse

There appears to be a reluctance to remove the garden refuse left in our town. There are eras in Riversbend that has not been cleared since early December 2009. We request urgent action in this regard. I reiterate the contents of our letter dated 9 December 2009. Kindly advise as to the current municipal policy regarding removal of garden refuse.

18. Entrance to Bushman's

The main entrance to Bushman's has been a source of concern for many years. Traffic calming measures are necessary. The speed at which vehicles pass the crossing (and also at Kenton) is dangerous and we have had many accidents at the intersection where pedestrians continually cross. There is also an application for a filling station to be erected at the entrance which, we believe, will further increase vehicular traffic which needs to be controlled.

Your kind and urgent attention to the above issues will be appreciated.

17. Kindly acknowledge receipt hereof.

Yours faithfully

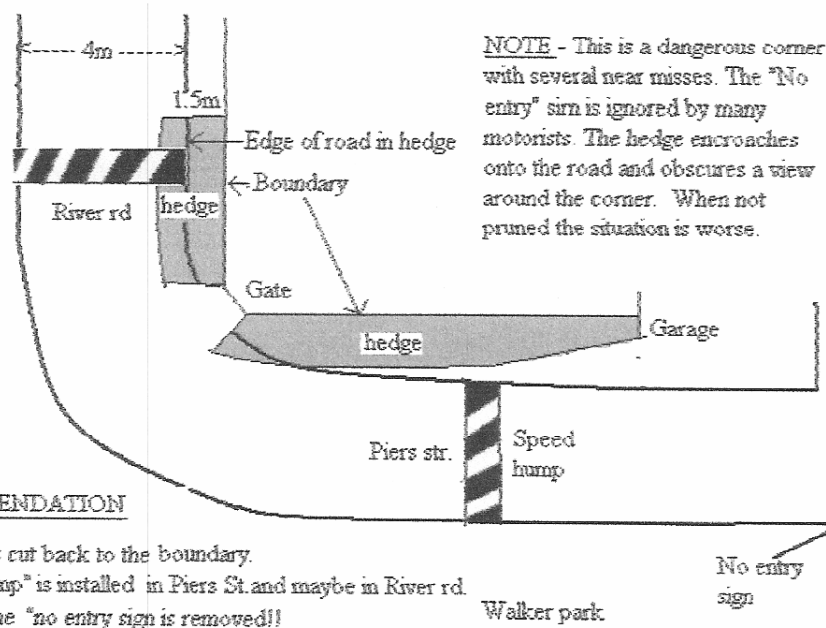
LÖTTER WEPENER
(Chairman)

- cc Mr. S Mvunelwa
Director of Community Protection Services
smvunelwa@ndlambe.co.za
- cc Mr. X Msiza
Director Infrastructure Development
xmsiza@ndlambe.co.za
- cc Mr. Richard Pote
Deputy Director: Infrastructure Development
rpote@ndlambe.co.za

CC The Chairperson
The Performance Audit Committee
Ndlambe Municipality

BY HAND

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NOTE - This is a dangerous corner with several near misses. The "No entry" sign is ignored by many motorists. The hedge encroaches onto the road and obscures a view around the corner. When not pruned the situation is worse.

RECOMMENDATION

The hedge is cut back to the boundary.
A 'speed hump' is installed in Piers St. and maybe in River rd.
The "no entry sign is removed!!