



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

BY HAND

Dear Sir

SEWAGE SPILLAGES

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. An inspection 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 with 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 (aquifers) and if these aquifers do not contain relatively impermeable calcrete layers in the upper horizons, raw

Committee: Lötter Wepener (Chairperson), Sheila Swanepoel (Vice Chairperson), Eric Smith (Treasurer), Wendy Grove (Secretary), Christo Botha, Corris Krogscheepers, Duncan MacTaggart, Pieter Mouton, Andrew Murray, Bill Northrop, Ian Smith, Anton Vosloo,

sewage 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 require vigorous programmes to be adhered to in order to ensure that the conservancy tanks do not overflow. Kindly supply us with the programmes in place to ensure that the tanks do not overflow to place us in a position to assess the viability of the programmes and to monitor compliance therewith.

In addition, we hereby demand from the Municipality to immediately rectify and repair the non-functioning sewer plant and to do so within 14 days from date of this letter, failing which we will have no option but to turn to the High Court for assistance.

You are welcome to correspond with us at writer's email address which is wepener@law.co.za

Yours faithfully

W L Wepener

(Chairman)