



BERGRIVIER MUNICIPALITY

OCTOBER 2010 NEWSLETTER TO TAXPAYERS AND RESIDENTS

Molweni bahlali ba se Bergrivier, lembalelwano iyafumenka ngolwime lwezi Xhosa kwiikantolo zehbu nga.

With summer in full swing, every effort is being made ensure that towns are kept tidy after the winter season. Unfortunately, most of the time it is still too cold to repair potholes as it should be 25° before tar can be handled to fill up potholes.

PROCESS OF APPEAL AGAINST COUNCIL DECISIONS

From time to time, residents want to know how they can appeal against decisions taken, for example, by an official.

The Municipal Systems Act, Act 32 of 2000, determines (1) that any person whose rights are affected by a decision taken by a political structure, political office bearer, councillor or staff member of a municipality, may appeal against that decision by giving written notice of the appeal and reasons to the municipal manager within 21 days from the date of notification of the decision.

The rest of the legislation deals with the process of handling the appeal. Sometimes persons would like to appeal against a matter that is contained in a policy. This is an indication of the importance of public participation at municipal public meetings which are held to obtain input regarding policy and annual plans. Input can also be given by means of documents that are advertised and that lie open for inspection in the library.

PIKETBERG BOTANICAL GARDEN

The development of a Botanical Garden in Piketberg has been initiated. The area alongside the historical cemetery is being considered for the development. Organisations that wish to become involved in its management and planning are asked to contact the Municipal Manager.

Client service

The ward committees will soon be performing a client service evaluation.

NEW WARD BOUNDARIES FOR NEXT YEAR'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

New ward boundaries have been determined for our wards. Details of the new boundaries are available at the municipal offices.

The Berg River Management Forum

The Berg River Management Forum are making progress in their attempts to ensure the conservation and control of the Berg River.

The Berg River Estuary is one of the biggest assets of Velddrif/Laiplek, the Berg River municipal area, the Western Cape and even South Africa, yet the river does not have any conservation status and no systems are currently in place to protect, conserve or manage this valuable resource.

The Berg River estuary is one of the biggest of South Africa's 279 estuaries with a total area of 61km². From a conservation point of view, this is one of the most important estuaries especially with regard to bird and fish fauna. The extended flood plains surrounding the middle and upper areas of the estuary makes it unique in the south western Cape. It is however being threatened from various quarters, such as fresh water withdrawal and pollution, over-utilising of fish resources, residential development and high intensity recreational activities.

Much has been done over the past two years to change the situation. According to Dr Schreuder, provision is being made in the Integrated Coastal Management act for conservation areas, but a few steps have to be followed before an area can be managed. As instructed by CapeNature's CAPE Regional Estuaries Management Programme, extensive research was conducted on the river estuary and a business programme

compiled. An important landmark which followed was the establishment of the Management Forum on 23 March of this year.

The Forum's next objective was to get the West Coast District Municipality or Bergrivier Municipality to take ownership of the river and to declare their willingness to act as managing agent. Charles Malherbe, environmental officer at the West Coast District Municipality indicated at a forum meeting held on Wednesday 15 September that the municipality was in the process of determining the legality of their involvement.

The Forum has begun compiling a set of regulations which will regulate boat traffic on the river.

Porterville and Aurora Refuse Collection Points

As part of its solid waste strategy, Bergrivier Municipality has compiled an action plan to close off its dumping sites completely which meant that refuse collection points at Aurora and Porterville had to be erected. The refuse collection point at Aurora is almost complete and the project at Porterville is making good progress.

Various concerns have been raised, especially regarding the Porterville collection point. A new dumping site will however not be built as all domestic and business refuse is being transported to Vissershok, Cape Town or to another licensed site outside the municipal area. Currently all domestic refuse in our community is being placed for door to door collection by the municipality and transported to the loading station at Piketberg. This service will continue. Garden refuse and building rubble may still be dumped at the old dumping site outside town. However, the old site will eventually be shut down and rehabilitated by Council.

A fenced off collection point with metal containers and strict access control is necessary for street refuse and other refuse which is collected later on after the compactor has transported all domestic refuse to Piketberg. The collection point will not be a nuisance or health risk as the following types of refuse will be prohibited at the collection point:

- **Dangerous refuse** such as asbestos, motor oil or grease; and
- **Offensive refuse** such as animal products, animal carcasses, perishable foodstuffs, medical waste, health care waste or fruit and vegetable or by-products.

The containers on the site will be emptied weekly by the compactor and the refuse transported to Piketberg.

Although Council considered various alternative sites in Porterville, the site next to the existing abattoir was found to be the most suitable site for the collection point, that it did not need to be rezoned, that services were available on site, that the site was safe and accessible to the public and that the site did not hold any safety or health risk for the public.

The only reason why Council considers rezoning from Industry to Authority Usage is to make provision for the future sorting and recycling of solid waste on the site. Should the application be unsuccessful, the site will still be suitable as a refuse collection point.



Council trusts that there will be a better understanding and clarity regarding the necessity and scope of the project in order to render a better quality refuse removal service to the community.

At an information meeting the municipality explained in detail to residents the purpose and necessity of the refuse collection points as an integral part of the systematic and orderly removal of domestic waste as well as compliance with legal provisions in this regard.

It must be emphasised that the proposed site will not be utilised to dump refuse, but as an additional facility where residents can dump waste in-between weekly removals.

The site will be fenced off properly and there will be strict access control. Refuse that has been placed in steel containers, are removed weekly to the loading station at Piketberg from where it is transported to an approved waste disposal site at Vissershok or Swartland Municipality.

No refuse will in future be dumped in any town within the Bergrivier Municipal area and existing sites will be shut down and rehabilitated over a period time.

Residents will be informed as soon as the site has been made available for use. Meanwhile, the community's cooperation is relied on in order to complete this acquisition for Porterville and other areas in future.

BERGRIVIER PERFORMANCE BONUSES

Much has been written in the past on performance bonuses for the Municipal Manager and the directors. The Council of Bergrivier has now done away with performance bonuses. Performance plans. Performance plans are also legislation on Bergrivier's website www.bergmun.org.za

WARD COMMITTEES

WARD COMMITTEES are now active and are seen as an official mouthpiece from the community to Bergrivier Municipality.

WATER SAVING MEASURES

Dams in our catchment area have about 5% less water after the winter season when compared with the same period last year. Residents are cautioned to use water sparingly. Gardens may not be watered between 10:00 and 16:00 and it is in everyone's interest to immediately repair any water leakages.

Areas for which Bergrivier Municipality is not responsible, but for which enquiries are received

- Schools and the education of the youth – Education Department
- Issuing of taxi permits – Transport Department which has an office in Piketberg
- Funding for hosing – Housing Department



Your needs in this regard can be directed to the relevant departments, but we cannot manage them nor influence service delivery.

Questions that you would like to see answered in the newsletter and suggestions

Please forward these to me at christalieberg@bergmun.org.za or hand in note to the Area Managers at Velddrif, Porterville or Piketberg.

Visit our website at www.bergmun.org.za which is continuously being improved. Complaints and enquiries can be directed to bergmun@telkomsa.net or PO Box 60, Piketberg, 7320.