

BITOU MUNICIPALITY IDP 2014/2015

NVRA COMMENTS ON DOCUMENTS CIRCULATED FOR COMMENT MID APRIL 2014.

Refer to document "Bitou Local Municipality, Revised Integrated Development Plan. 2014/2015"

1. Page 15. Reference is made to Bitou SDF as being approved. No mention made that what was approved was a DRAFT SDF, which had been subject to very negative comment by many IAP's. We are not aware that a revised document has been issued for comment.
2. Page 15. Water provision; states that a new Ozone Generator had been installed at Natures Valley (NV) water works. As far as we are aware this is still due for installation and the statement is incorrect.
3. Page 15. Green waste; states that drop-off facilities for green waste have been identified, which is incorrect as far as we are aware.
4. Page 21. Roles and Responsibilities; refers to communities who are expected to ensure that their requirements and concerns are considered as part of the IDP process, via the Ward Committee. **As far as Natures Valley is concerned we feel that the Ward Committee for Ward 1 is not functioning or the communication is non-existent.** Items which were tabled by NV and Covie in 2013 were not considered during the last financial year and show no sign of being considered in 2014/2015. No effort has been made by the Ward Councillor, which we are aware of, to establish the community priorities for the coming financial year.
5. Page 51. The NV items listed in Table 3.1 were only included in the list for Ward 1 following the IDP meeting in Kurland Community Hall early in April 2014. The Ward Committee had nothing to do with getting this list together. **Interestingly, none of the NV items on this list appear in the 1 year Project Implementation Plan on page 75, table 6.1. (In fact no items for Ward 1 appear on this list).**

The detail contained in the lists for Ward 2,3,4,5,6 and 7 would indicate that perhaps the Ward Committees in these wards are functioning.

We believe that the councillor's job for Ward 1 is very demanding and that perhaps the ward should be split in two, however we have not seen any sign that any meaningful effort is being made to get Ward 1 functioning.

Attached as an addendum to this document is a list of issues in Natures Valley which have been tabled previously via the Ward Committee and which are regarded as of critical importance to the ratepayers of Natures Valley. (See addendum A).

6. Page 52. It is of serious concern to note that the Municipality continues to operate without the services of a registered professional engineer.
7. Page 66. Ward; states that Ward Committees meet once every 2 months. Is this true for Ward 1 during 2013/2014 and are there any minutes kept?
8. Page 74. Table 6.1 shows no project implementation in the coming year for Ward 1. How is this possible?
9. Page 85. The table summarising the water supply facilities to each area in Bitou Municipality refers among others, to Natures Valley. The stats which are provided for demand, availability and reservoir storage capacity in the NV system are all very misleading, as they refer to averages. No mention is made of the peak demand situation which reflects a 10 fold increase over the averages and unfortunately the river, treatment works and reservoir capacity have to cater for the peak. NV has run out of water on a number of occasions during the holiday season. **This is mainly due to inadequate storage.** Any equipment failure, operational error or power failure is likely to result in a water crisis if it occurs during peak season.
Interesting that the water supply to Covie is not even mentioned?
10. Page 89. Table scheduling “actions to address sewage challenges” in the municipal area; **No mention is made of Natures Valley which is the only municipal urban area which has no sewage reticulation system and has been “pushing” for years to have this addressed.** Perhaps the rate-payers in NV are regarded as unimportant despite paying close to R 1 000 000 per month into the municipal coffers.
11. Page 91. Under Electricity; Table refers to “Maintenance of Infrastructure”. Serious problems with cable failures occurred in mini-substations in NV during Dec 2013. A letter was sent to the Municipal Manager on this issue and discussed at subsequent meetings. This fact does not seem to have been registered or deserve mention in the departments planned activities for the coming financial year.
12. Page 97. Table under Economic Development, Tourism and Recreation; Reference is made to the Salt River and Piesang Rivers as being worthy of special Environmental Management Programmes. Although this is good news, it is very surprising and worrying that the Groot River is not mentioned.
- 14 Page 113. List of “projects to be undertaken in the medium term”; **This list appears to contain nothing relating to Ward 1, never mind Natures Valley. Can this be correct?**

Prepared By: D.C. Blaine on behalf of NVRA Committee.

Addendum A

Natures Valley Ratepayers Association (NVRA)

30-04-2014

SCHEDULE OF ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION FOR INCLUSION IN 2014/15 IDP BUDGET

The majority of these items have been raised previously via the Ward 1 Ward Representative for inclusion in the IDP budget. **None of the items are new but are regarded as critical by the ratepayers of Natures Valley.**

1. The resolution of the potential pollution problems associated with overflowing conservancy tanks in low lying areas of Natures Valley. A considerable amount of money was spent by the Municipality about 6 years ago in finding a workable solution to the problem, but it has since been put on the shelf. Pollution of the Groot Rivier lagoon has occurred in recent years which has resulted in a number of serious cases of sewage related illness amongst persons using the lagoon for recreational activities.
2. The provision of Public Toilet facilities at the entrance to Natures Valley to cater for workers who come to the Valley on a daily basis and spend time at the entrance awaiting transport home. They are currently using the bush adjacent to the river, which has resulted in proven pollution in the lagoon.
3. The upgrading of the water storage reservoir to ensure adequate supply of water during peak holiday periods and capacity for fire-fighting purposes.
4. The upgrading of main water supply pipelines to improve the water pressure to all household during peak periods.
5. The installation of replacement Ozone Generators and the automation of the diesel standby plant at the water treatment works.
6. The building of a recyclables collection facility at the existing Waste Transfer Station and the routine collection of recyclables.
7. The checking and maintenance of all electrical mini-sub and consumer cubicles to avoid failures such as those which occurred during Dec 2013.
8. The demolition and removal of the partly demolished house on municipal erf 337.

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