

PROGRESS WITH RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS IN PLACE TO REDUCE FINANCIAL LOSSES

Overstrand Municipality has made good progress with addressing the top 10 risks to the enterprise identified in March this year. It was reported to Council that most of them will be fully responded to at the end of the financial year.

The Municipality's Risk Committee already considered the next round of Top Ten Risks in November and projects in this regard will be considered for inclusion in the capital and/or operational budget for the forthcoming financial year.

According to the report, the risk of financial losses due to water distribution loss, uncollected traffic fines and vandalism of property have been addressed in various ways.

Tenders were put out for the replacement of ageing water distribution networks in Hermanus and Hangklip-Kleinmond, the current water meter audit to identify inaccurate and ageing water meters will be followed with a replacement programme of 4000 meters per annum and unauthorised consumption is receiving attention through assertive action by operational management and staff.

A tender for the prosecution of traffic offenders had been awarded and a policy had been drafted for the prosecution of vandals. A system whereby information will be rewarded is well advanced.

The risk of losing electronic information or computer data will be addressed through the soon-to-be awarded tenders for a disaster recovery server and a centralised management backup system (virtualisation).

The inadequate infrastructure for water purification and sewage treatment in Hermanus will be addressed with the refurbishment of the plants within the next year, though

the upgrading of both works is dependent upon the finalisation of environmental impact assessments.

Problems with storm-water drainage had been addressed with the identification of hot spots and budget provisions on the current budget. The tender process is currently under way.

The risk of interrupted or limited supply of electricity had been addressed with the instalment of a back-up generator at the Hermanus Municipal Store and the promotion of energy saving measures at all new developments, for which the developers must submit energy saving plans before approval.

The Olifantsberg high-site mast will be upgraded soon to prevent a possible breakdown in the municipality's radio frequency network. Protective clothing is on order for specialised duties in the fire brigade and water treatment works. Fire breaks were recently put in place in the Fernkloof Nature Reserve and other areas to prevent unnecessary brush and mountain fires. A tender was awarded for informal settlement control.

Still in the pipeline is the introduction of a municipal court system, where the National Prosecuting Authority's policy in this regard is awaited, and a system of forward planning with regard to the municipality's tender process.



The new Hermanus Station shopping centre offers 650 new parking spots in the heart of Hermanus and will make the town more accessible for visitors. The old Station Building was restored as part of the development and the style of the centre was adapted accordingly by, amongst others, the late conservation architect Hannes Meiring.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS CROWN IT ALL

The opening of the Hermanus Station shopping centre and the CBD relief road caps a development process which spanned many years and was aimed at revitalising Hermanus' business hub and giving Overstrand's economy a boost.

"We believe the development will attract further investments and development in our rapidly growing region. Given the difficult economic times we recently experienced, the R200 million spent on constructing the complex stimulated economic growth – not only locally, but also further afield," Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie said.

On the side of the municipality, the renewal effort has now been completed with the exception of the upgrading of the taxi rank. In addition to the redevelopment of the station premises, this also encompassed the construction of the CBD relief road, the upgrading of Market Square and the pedestrianisation and creation of parking at

Gearing's Point and Cliff Tops.

Hermanus is now geared to fulfil its rightful role as tourist centre, and the Mayor said she hopes Hoy's Kopie will play an important role as green lung and archaeological treasure trove.

With the commencement of economic activities on the site, the market for goods and services will be expanded and the labour market will be increased, and this development will provide impetus for new commercial developments, Ms Botha-Guthrie said.

The estimated increase of R428 million in annual business volumes will cause an ongoing ripple effect throughout the sub-region, resulting in an increase in product and service value. The impact on employment is estimated to be 402 direct jobs and a further 521 indirect jobs, giving a total of 922 jobs, most of them generated in Hermanus.

The benefit for Overstrand Municipality is estimated at

R1,8 million per annum in terms of taxes and service fees. Checkers/Shoprite also upgraded and renovated the Station Building, keeping a piece of history in the CBD intact and providing a base from where tourists can discover our town and region.

An economic feasibility study commissioned by Overstrand Municipality found that vehicle operation costs and the likelihood of accidents on CBD roads will decrease as a result of the new relief road that was officially opened on Friday, 26 November 2010. The study calculated the net percent value of the user benefits at R144 million over a 20-year period.

The CBD relief road was constructed at a cost of R24 million to improve mobility and safety on the town's road system. The heart of the world's whale capital will become much more pedestrian friendly, and this will boost economic development.

CAR GUARDS AND CAR WASHERS NOW CONTROLLED

Up until now, numerous individuals have appeared in the Central Business District (CBD) area of Hermanus calling themselves 'parking attendants', 'parking guards' and even 'parking marshals'.

In an attempt to coordinate and monitor these activities, the municipality has introduced obligatory wear and rules that will assist the motorist in recognising the 'car guards' and 'car wash' attendants.

From 1 December, all Car Guards and Car Wash attendants will have a specific identity, distinguishable by respectively orange or yellow/lime green bibs that will also display the phone number of the municipal control room. They will operate in the CBD area only.

Car guards may accept voluntary 'tips' for watching your vehicle. They will operate in the CBD area between the hours of 17:00 and 08:00 only. They may not act as car washers as well.

Car washers are the people who

undertake to wash your vehicle at a tariff determined by themselves and may wash vehicles between the hours of 08:00 and 17:00 only. They may work in the following parking areas only: Barneys, Cliff Tops parking, FNB parking, Gearing's Point, Mitchell's Street, Rossi's, Savannah Café, Spur/Clicks and Woolworths. They may not act as car guards as well.

While you the motorist are under no obligation to utilise the services of the 'car guards' and 'car washers', you may do so of your own free will and at your own risk as these people are not employed by the municipality. The Municipal Law Enforcement division will, however, be monitoring their activities closely.

Buyambo Marshals: Please note that 'car guards' and 'car wash' people should not be confused with the services of the 'parking marshals' who wear blue bibs and peak caps. The Parking Marshals, who are employed by the service provider



Car guards and Washers sport their new gear. With them are local Economic Development Officer Yolanda Hendriks and Chief of Law Enforcement, Marius Hendriks.

Buyambo Properties, collect parking fees in specific demarcated areas. Parking fees are collected by the 'Buyambo Marshals' between the hours of 08:00 and 17:00 on Mondays to Fridays and between 08:00 and 13:00 on Saturdays. Parking on Sundays and religious holidays is free.

Motorists should not pay or give money to any person for parking other than those mentioned above. No person will be permitted to accept money for parking if they are not registered and wearing the appropriate uniform.



At the inauguration of the new satellite library adjacent to the Bamboes Hall on Buffeljagsbaai were from the left Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie, Deputy Mayor Pieter Scholtz, Buffeljagsbaai's librarian Sophia Boshoff, Gansbaai's librarian Sharmar Geldenhuys, area manager Kat Myburgh, Desirée Barnard from the Overberg District Municipality, Mhlengi Ngocobu from the Provincial Library Service, and Roderick Williams, director community services. Photo: Francois de Jongh.

BUFFELJAGSBAAI GETS SATELLITE LIBRARY

With the official opening of a satellite library 2 December 2010 in Buffeljagsbaai, residents of this tiny Overstrand enclave will now be able to enjoy access to some 1500 books and library services five days per week.

Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie described this development as a shining example of cooperative governance on a small scale. The need was identified by the Health and Welfare Committee of the Overberg District Municipality, the Western Cape Provincial Administration made the money available, and Overstrand Municipality did the implementation.

The provincial library services also donated two mobile lockable library cupboards to the tiny library.

The children, who must travel a distance of 40 km to the nearest school on Gansbaai, will have no excuse in future for tardy assignments and homework. Not only are excellent reference works on

offer, but the intention is to offer internet facilities in the very near future. The barriers to being knowledgeable and informed are being demolished, Ms Botha-Guthrie said.

"Buffeljagsbaai may be a very tiny place in Overstrand, but our municipality and council regard it as very important. That you have witnessed when we renovated the Bamboes Hall and provided a new reservoir to improve the quality of the water we deliver to you. You are part of our vision to be a centre of excellence for our community. We need to move forward as one. No-one may be left behind," the Mayor said.

In expressing thanks on behalf of the community, ward councillor, Mr Pieter Scholtz, said the community deserves a library and will take good care of it. He quoted Langenhoven who said a reading nation becomes a thinking nation, and a thinking nation becomes a great nation.

PARCELS FOR TRAUMA ROOMS



As one of her last projects as Mayoress, Marianné Beylevelt put emergency relief parcels at the disposal of the trauma rooms in Overstrand. Twenty parcels containing products such as toothpaste, soap, a wash cloth and tissues were delivered to the five trauma rooms in Overstrand. These parcels are intended to comfort victims of rape and domestic violence who, as a result, must spend a night in one of the rooms. With her at the Zwelihle trauma room is Constable Mazuto.

COMMUNITY POLICE FORUM



REWARD FOR INFORMATION

Vandalism costs Overstrand Municipality and, by inference, rate payers lots of money, and this authority fully intends putting an end to it.

Recently, for example, a wooden hut used by security guards at the picnic site near Grotto Strand was set alight. Not only did the hut burn down, but damage was caused to an adjacent electrical substation and a nearby restaurant. Further consequential damage entailed that the sewage at Grotto Beach could not be pumped away and had to be carted off by tankers at a huge expense.

This single incident eventually resulted in the municipality being more than R17 000 out of pocket and this does not include the repair of damages to the restaurant.

Numerous other examples can be cited. In rand terms, officials estimate that the total damage as a result of

vandalism and malicious damage to property amounts to hundreds of thousands each year.

The municipality applies a policy of zero tolerance and if the guilty parties are caught, criminal charges will be lodged with the Police and the damages will be recovered from the perpetrators.

In order to do this, we need the public's cooperation and are prepared to pay substantial cash rewards for information which will lead to the conviction of perpetrators.

Incidents can be reported at any time, day or night, to the 24-hour control room (028 313 8111). Although informers ought to be prepared to make sworn statements and to testify in court, exceptions can be made in certain instances in order to protect people's identity.

**NATIONAL
FRAUD HOTLINE**

0800 701 701