

JUNE 2022

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Bulletin

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Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

#C4ourself

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN/IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO WATERCOURSES REVISED

Recently, an application to develop a property in Pringle Bay zoned as Residential 1 caused major upheaval since the erf in question was classified as a "watercourse" based on the National Wetland Map 5 (NWM5) published under the auspices of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP).

In the case of this application, the DEA&DP found that since "[t]he greater extent of Erf *** Pringle Bay is mapped as a channelled valley-bottom wetland", the "Department of Water and Sanitation and/or the relevant catchment management agency must be consulted with respect to development within or within close proximity to a watercourse".

Accordingly, the DEA&DP instructed that an application to develop the property be submitted to the Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA) in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations issued under the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, 1998). (Note that this Act defines a "watercourse" as either a river or a wetland.)

Given the DEA&DP's instruction, Overstrand's Environmental Management Section (EMS) had no option but to turn the proposed development down.

Working towards expediting approvals

Overstrand Municipality is all too aware that having to obtain approval from the BGCMA before developments (i.e. building plans) can be approved can cause delays and a lot of frustration, especially since a large percentage of residential erven within the area are classified as wetlands.

In an attempt to speed up the process for approving residential developments within wetlands situated in Overstrand's urban area, the EMS has engaged the BGCMA to determine the way forward.

Thus far it has been established that a professional accredited by the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) must complete a risk matrix for the proposed development and submit this to the BGCMA. Since EMS officials are not SACNASP accredited, they cannot conduct site visits to verify the presence or absence of a wetland or complete the requisite risk matrix.

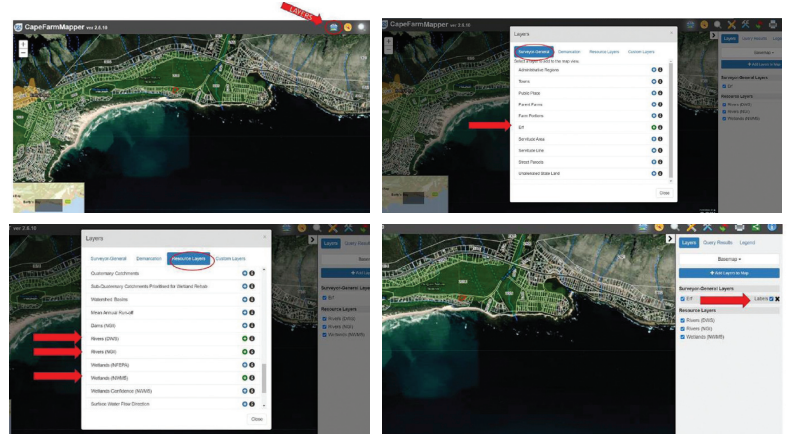
To expedite the process when submitting building plans for approval by the responsible authority (in this case the BGCMA), we recommend the following:

- Before submitting plans, determine whether the property is classified as a wetland. Both the DEA&DP and the BGCMA make use of the online mapping program CapeFarmMapper to determine a property's classification. (See instructions below on how to use this program.)
- If the property is classified as a wetland, secure the services of an accredited SACNASP professional to complete the requisite risk matrix.
- To minimise potential risk, submit plans for elevated stilt houses so that water can move freely through the wetland on the property.
- Be sure to include the cubic metre (m3) infill proposed for the development since the BGCMA will require this information in the approval process.
- Also ensure that the plan shows the infill and square meter (m2) coverage for the entire proposed development, including the conservancy tank installation, access driveways, etc.

CapeFarmMapper

This online mapping program is accessible via <https://gis.elsenburg.com/apps/cfm/>

To determine whether the property falls within or within close proximity to a classified wetland or contains a river, turn on the layers shown below. To make sure you are viewing the correct property, turn on the label that shows the erf number by hovering over the area shown in the fourth graph and check the label box.



Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency

For details on the BGCMA, visit <https://breedegouritzcma.co.za/>

Enquiries regarding submissions/approvals can be directed via email to Fabion Smith (fsmith@bgcma.co.za) and Themba Bushula (tbushula@bgcma.co.za). Please be sure to include both officials in all emails.

UPCOMING EVENT: CONFERENCE Exploring Investment Opportunities in the Overstrand

As part of its drive to fast-track economic development in the Overstrand in a sustainable and environmentally sound manner, Overstrand Municipality will be hosting a two-day conference for potential investors from 23-24 June 2022 in Hermanus.

Undoubtedly, the Overstrand with its unique setting offers several opportunities for those who wish to invest in more than just the tourism and hospitality industry.

Yet, given the influx of those who want to call Overstrand home, new avenues to create sustainable jobs must be investigated as a matter of urgency.

To date, Overstrand has initiated several developments including

an industrial park and a demarcated area where small-scale businesses can be accommodated.

Nevertheless, if the full potential of the Overstrand is to be developed to the benefit of its people, potential investors need to be consulted so that every possible avenue for job creation and economic wellbeing can be explored. We need to ensure a soft approach with a product mix to complement our region.

With this purpose in mind, Overstrand's Investment and Infrastructure department will be inviting several potential investors to attend a conference on how best to explore Overstrand's potential investment opportunities.

Watch the press for details and a link to register online.

OPERATION LUNGISA YIELDS SEVERAL SUCCESSES

In February this year, Overstrand's Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Lindile Ntsabo, launched Operation Lungisa as part of a concerted effort to curb crime and to increase visible law enforcement in the Overstrand.

Serving as chair of the portfolio Protection Services on the MAYCO, Cllr. Ntsabo secured the cooperation of several role-players in the law enforcement field (e.g. the SAPS, Overstrand Law Enforcement's task team and the rapid-response and K9 units) as well as other entities such as CapeNature, the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment (DFFE) and the Overberg District Municipality's Department of Health.

Jointly, Operation Lungisa can boast with several successes:

- An inspection of various businesses in Zwelihle revealed that shop owners were selling perishable foodstuffs that were way past their sell-by date. The perpetrators were instructed to remove the items from their shelves and were fined in accordance with the regulations issued under the relevant legislation.
- In the Hangklip-Kleinmond area, crime prevention patrols conducted along routes and at hotspots favoured by poachers resulted in seven suspected culprits being arrested and the confiscation of their haul as well as equipment to the tune of around R1.5 million.
- A regular road policing patrol conducted along the R43 led to the arrest of a woman found to be in possession of a large quantity of illegal drugs (Mandrax and Tik) and also resulted in several motorists being fined for driving unlicensed vehicles and the impoundment of vehicles that were not roadworthy.
- Following up on information received from the public, two unlicensed firearms and several rounds of live ammunition were discovered in a house in Kleinmond.

Cllr. Ntsabo would like to thank the community for their cooperation and support and encourages everyone to do their bit to make Overstrand a safer, healthier place to work and live in.



Removing unsafe foodstuffs from shops' shelves

BABOON MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME: CURRENT REALITY



Recently, Overstrand's Executive Mayor, Dr Annelie Rabie, supported by the chairperson of the Investment and Infrastructure Portfolio Committee, Cllr Clinton Lerm, and Ward 9 and 10 councillors met with Municipal Manager, Dean O'Neill, the Director: Infrastructure and Planning, Stephen Muller, and Senior Manager: Environmental Management Services, Liezl de Villiers, to discuss the current realities of the Baboon Management Programme (BMP).

This meeting was called to address two issues in particular:

- The relentless and consistent abuse municipal officials suffer from certain individuals and organisations regarding the BMP; and
- The imminent expiry of the agreement entered into with the current service provider, Human Wildlife Solutions (end-June 2023), and the expiry of Overstrand's mandate to manage baboons in the area (2024).

In order to ensure continued service delivery with regards to baboon management, the attendees agreed that consultations between the Provincial Department of Environmental Affairs, CapeNature and Overstrand Municipality should commence sooner than later.

Another issue that requires immediate attention is the revision of the BMP based on the most current research on baboons. The latter will also involve clarifying the role of Baboon Liaison Groups (BLGs).

Currently, these groups are not regarded as formally legislated and, therefore, do not enjoy representation on ward committees. If they can be accommodated on the latter, it will be possible to address their inputs regarding baboon matters in the usual formalised manner (i.e. fed into the relevant portfolio committee and from there to the MAYCO for eventual inclusion in Council's agenda).

Further updates with regards to the foregoing will be provided as new information becomes available.

Unfortunately, councillors and municipal officials have been and are confronted on a daily basis with slanderous and unfounded comments from various individuals about the management of baboons in the Overstrand. This is unacceptable and simply demoralising as Overstrand Municipality is aware that there are a number of individuals who, in some areas, actively feed baboons and interfere with their management, including coaxing them into and doing their best to ensure that they keep on showing up in urban areas.

This behaviour leads to the habituation of individual baboons and, eventually, troops resulting in heightened animal/human interface – an outcome that often results in baboons being maimed or even killed.

In the interest of all concerned (baboons and humans), Overstrand Municipality yet again appeals to all residents to refrain from feeding baboons, to manage their gardens in such a way that potential food is not available, to practice baboon-safe waste management, to baboon-proof their homes and to not interfere unnecessarily with the work of the baboon monitors.

Baboons are clever and opportunistic animals always looking for an easy meal. To feed them, though, limits their ability to survive in the wild and is also a criminal offence. Thus, please, please do not feed them.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank those residents who manage their waste properly and those who support the Baboon Management Programme.

CAREER EXPO A RESOUNDING SUCCESS



MAYOR RABIE OFFERING A WORD OF ADVICE: *"Find yourself a mentor – someone that will truly inspire you to get out of bed and tackle every day anew."*

Early in May, Grade 12 learners at Hawston Secondary were afforded the opportunity to attend a two-day event that was not only informative and inspirational but also a lot of fun.

Orchestrated by Neo Life in collaboration with the school and more than twenty motivational speakers representing a whole array of industries and organisations in and around Hermanus, the learners were exposed in a rather hands-on manner to some career opportunities that, hitherto, might not even have been on their radar. Several higher education institutions were on hand to not only shared information on the courses they offer but to also offer some very handy tips on how to go about applying for a study loan or bursary.

In a show of Council's support for this drive to inspire Overstrand's youth, Executive Mayor, Dr. Annelie Rabie, Deputy Mayor, Lindile Ntsabo, as well as Cllr. Arnie Africa, Cllr Ronald Nutt and Ald. Elnora Gillion were there to share a bit of their personal wisdom. "If you can dream it, you can do it," the Mayor said, but cautioned that learners should not slack: "Go all out for getting good results and don't let a lack of money discourage you. Be open-minded and explore every possible avenue to realise your dreams, even if it means following an alternative career path initially."



WARD 8 COUNCILLOR AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT SERVICES AND COMMUNICATIONS, ARNIE AFRICA, HAD NOTHING BUT PRAISE FOR EVERYONE WHO WERE WILLING TO SHARE THEIR LIFE EXPERIENCES AND TO SHARE SOME HANDY ADVICE ON HOW DREAMS CAN BE REALISED.

Front (l-r): Jay-Dee Lakay (Rupert Foundation), musicians Herschel Burns and Stoffel Kees who provided some upbeat entertainment, Portia Kleinsmidt (Neo Life), Lucelle Poole (principal of Hawston Secondary School), René Muller (Neo Life), and Noluthando Kadama (Overstrand Traffic). At the back are (l-r): Francois Woodman (Helderstroom Correctional Services), Marx Mohar (Neptune Divers), Jeffrey Sodladla (Helderstroom Correctional Services), Angelo Aplon (Overstrand Fire & Rescue), Fadila September (Hermanus SAPS), Grant Gillion (Overstrand Law Enforcement), Ralmon Hansen (Overstrand Traffic), Kevin Warwick (Warwick Chef School) and Priscilla Booysen (Rupert Foundation)

SIU INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY

President Cyril Ramaphosa authorised the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) to conduct an investigation in connection with the affairs of Overstrand Municipality with specific reference to complaints received in regard to housing division within the municipality in terms of Proclamation No. R43 of 2022, as published in Government Gazette No. 45617 dated 10 December 2021.

Here it ought to be noted that this investigation follows on a request to the Premier of the Western Cape by Overstrand's Municipal Council dating back to 2019 that a forensic audit be conducted after an internal audit investigation revealed irregularities within the Overstrand Housing Department.

Having been furnished with all relevant information, the SIU contingent has busied itself since April 2022 with conducting one-on-one interviews with several members of the public and relevant municipal officials.

The delegation plans to complete its investigation by 30 June 2022.

Meanwhile, Executive Mayor Rabie and Council urge all parties involved to offer their full cooperation so that this matter can be resolved.

The findings of the investigation will be made public as soon as available.