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MINUTES OF SRA PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT ST FRANCIS LINKS ON JANUARY 3RD 2017, AT 16H00

Attendance :

92 Members of the Public (per attendance register).

Present :

SRA Committee members:

Wayne Furphy
Chris Gray
Greg Miller,
Nigel Aitken
Paul Pezarro, Treasurer
Lyn Aitken - Secretary
Ward Councillor Ben Rheeder

Apologies :

Simon Picton-Turbervill - SFBRHOA
Norman Dyer – KJRC
Charl du Plessis, Kouga Municipality Municipal Manager

This was the second of three Public Meetings to be held since 20th December 2017, chaired by the St Francis Property Owners Chairman Wayne Furphy.

The St Francis Property Owners Association presented their revised SRA proposal in line with the Kouga Municipality's revised SRA By-Law and Policy.

The full presentation is available for public scrutiny on the website (www.stfrancispropertyowners.org)
In summary the following was proposed :

1. The SRA levy would be reduced from the originally proposed 50% of property owners' monthly rates to 25% with the shortfall in revenue being gathered from alternative sources.
2. The demarcation area for the levy will include the Village and Canal areas. Santareme, St Francis on Sea, Port, Otters Landing, Industrial Sites and The Links could be included at a later stage if the property owners in these areas choose to participate.
3. The scope of the projects and services include:
 - 3.1 The restoration of the beach, spit and river (priority 1)

- 3.2 The repair and maintenance of sections of the arterial roads and parking areas to be limited to the Village centre and main intersections along with pedestrian and cycle tracks along main arterial roads (priority 2), and rebuild of the arterial roads
- 3.3 The installation of CCTV camera surveillance in the demarcated area (priority 3)
4. The revision necessitates a re-vote which will be launched in early January 2018 once the Kouga Municipality have gazetted the amendments to their By-Law.

The floor was in full support and a vote of thanks was proposed for the Chairman, his committee and the Directors of the NPC for their tireless work and commitment in support of St Francis Bay.

Question : Is there any longer term planning how can we sustain this after the 10 year period and how vulnerable are we if the Municipality passes back to ANC control?

Answer : From a political point of view, that's why we are doing this. It is a big risk for us. We cannot afford to let our property values be affected by this risk. We are by no means banking on a DA future and we must therefore take these matters into our own hands in order to keep control of our own destiny. We are held to an annual budget which we submit each year to the Municipality. The levy will finance our capital projects, but once these are completed then the levy should be adjusted down to fund the ongoing maintenance of the river, beach and spit (dredging and nourishing the beach) and operating the CCTV system.

Question : . Are the values presented here present day values?

Answer : Yes, the Municipality is not yet in a position to provide us with forecasted property rates for the 2018/19 year.

Question : If the budget requires that the levy be raised are we committing ourselves to this now or will the process have to be reviewed

Answer : The rate cannot just be raised. We would need to go back to our community to gain consent for a revised rate.

Question : Of the number of cameras that are proposed how many will be installed in the Sea Vista township areas?

Answer : In the full scope there are 6 to be installed in the township and industrial area. However, with the reduction in the demarcated area there will be no cameras installed in the township at this stage.

Question : What is the timeframe for the restoration of the beach and spit

Answer : We have tabled Advisian's preliminary findings. We think it can be done over a four year period but ideally we are aiming for a one year period.

Question : Will this project be contracted out or will it be done in-house.

Answer : The work will be contracted out.

Question : How will we protect the beach if we have to wait for 12 – 18 months for EIA to be completed.

Answer : Our Municipal Manager met with DEDEAT here on our beach to highlight the risks to the department and the Municipality in the event of a disaster. An advocate is being consulted and we are aware that a short term solution is essential. Ward Councillor Ben Rheeder added that there are two ways of doing this 1) The preferred option is to do this the correct way with DEDEAT approval 2) If they won't allow us to take emergency measures to save the spit then we will take the necessary steps to ensure that the spit is saved.

Question : What happens if the costs escalate and you start to run out of money?

Answer ; This is a risk and all that we can do is reduce the scope. Rates collection is a problem and the Municipality must improve collection and must take action against delinquent ratepayers.

Question : How do you know that Phase 1 is working?

Answer : Phase 1 was just to fix the existing revetments and this has been completed. The revetments only protect the properties but are not good for keeping beaches. Phase 2 will be to push the sea back from the revetments to restore the beach.

Question : Are you sure that groynes will be the solution.

Answer : Advisian are assessing how effective groynes will be as part of their long term solution selection and design. Groynes are quite expensive so it will likely be a journey beginning with a groyne on the spit near the river mouth.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.